五輪書

ごりんのしょ

宮本武蔵・作

まんがで読破

イースト・プレス

THE BOOK OF FIVE RINGS

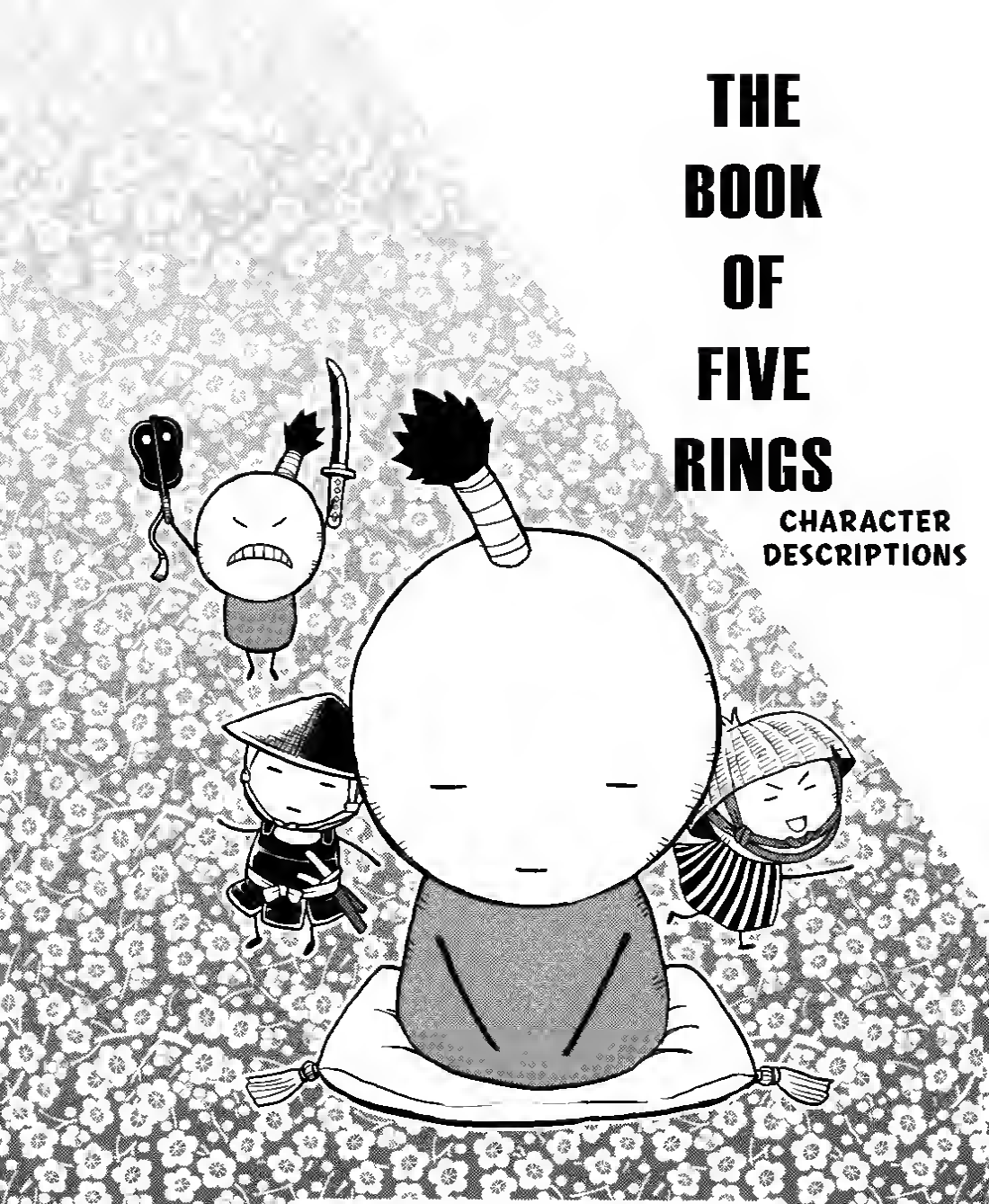
MANGA DE DOKUHA

A Work by Miyamoto Musashi

EAST PRESS

THE BOOK OF FIVE RINGS

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS



NAVISUKE
The story's navigator. Together with Musashi, Navisuke will guide you through the teachings of ***Ground***, ***Water***, ***Fire***, ***Wind***, and ***Void*** that make up ***The Book of Five Rings***.

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI

A master swordsman who lived during the early Edo period. His origins are the subject of wide speculation, but according to ***The Book of Five Rings*** he was born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1584. From a young age, he began learning martial arts and strategy. His reputation grew as he fought numerous duels. However, no records exist from the time when he was 29 to 50 years old. His life during those years remains a mystery. During his final years in Kumamoto, he wrote his masterwork on martial arts, ***The Book of Five Rings***. In 1645, he passed away at the age of 62.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE ORIGINS OF A LEGEND 5

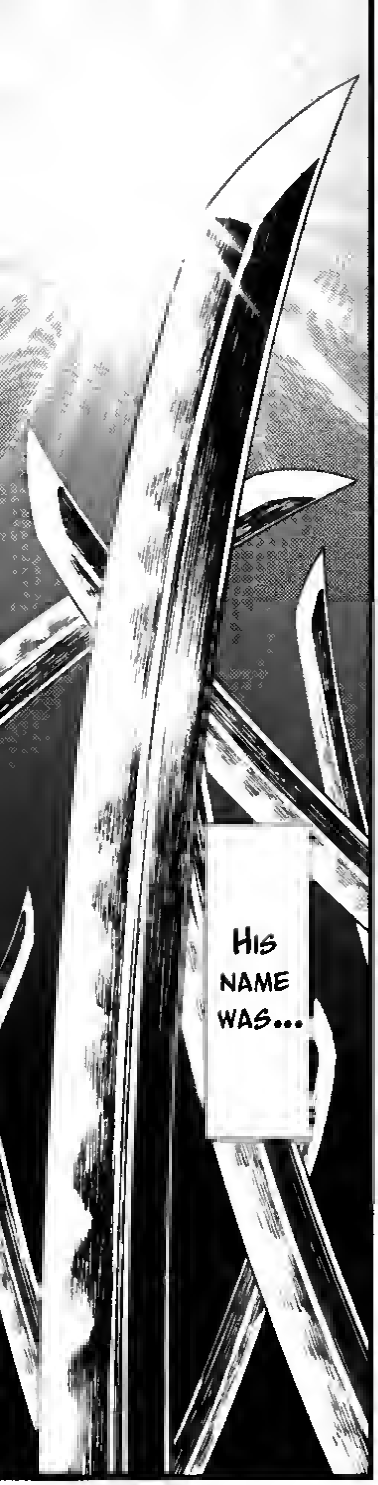
THE BOOK OF GROUND 30

THE BOOK OF WATER 64

THE BOOK OF FIRE 116

THE BOOK OF WIND 176

THE BOOK OF VOID 184



Long ago in Japan, when the sword was a weapon of honor during the era of the samurai...

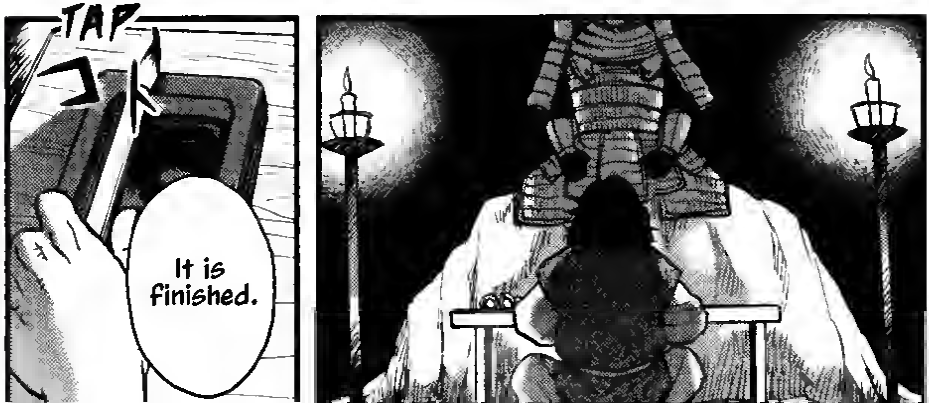
...the name of one master swordsman shone brightly above the rest.

THE ORIGINS OF A LEGEND

...Musashi.
Miyamoto Musashi. A master of two-sword style who was unequaled and undefeated.
The stories of this brilliant historical figure named Musashi continue to captivate audiences up to the present.
Even now, Miyamoto Musashi is a legendary figure.
But...

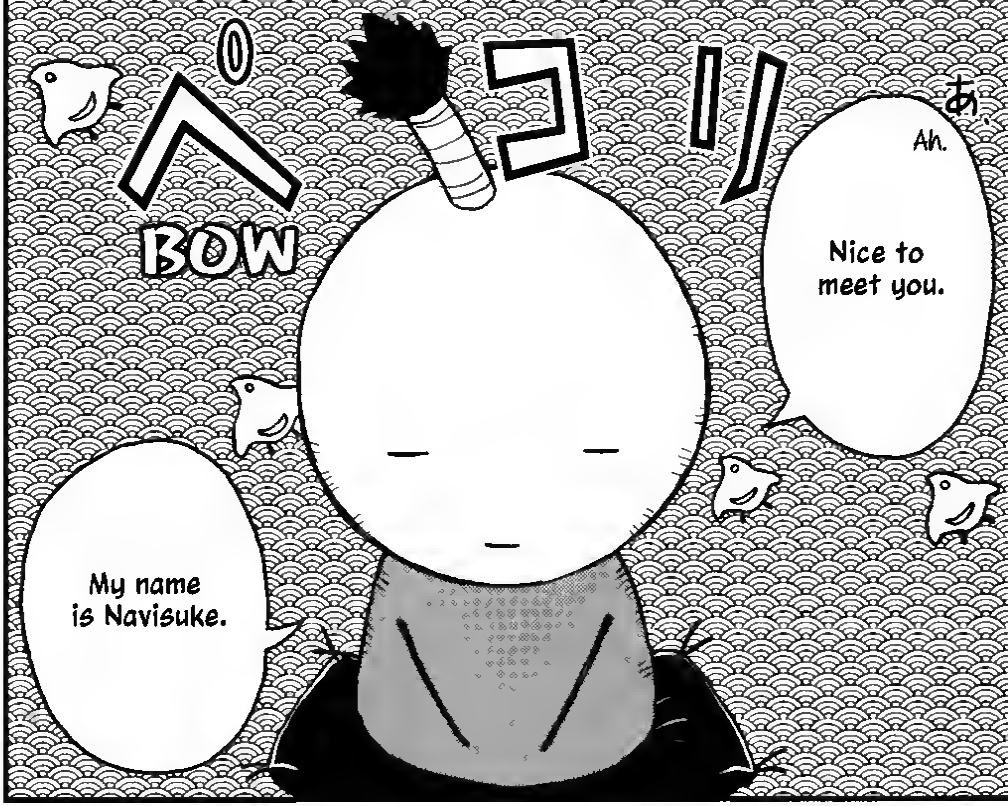
...Few historical records exist that describe the *real* Musashi. Instead, many legends about Musashi have arisen around the world.

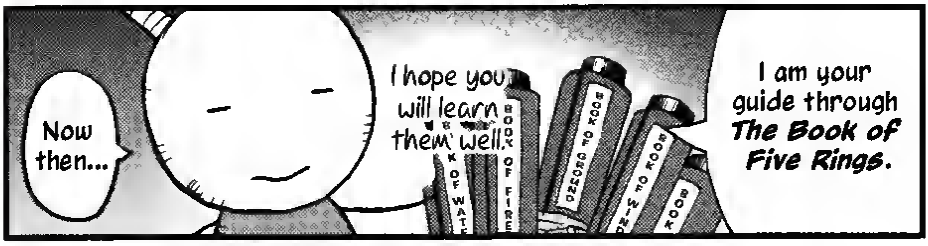
The year 1645. Inside *Reigan Cave*, located at Reigan Temple in the Higo Province of Kumamoto.



Miyamoto Musashi. 62 years old.
After isolating myself in this cave for over 2 years...
Book of Water
Book of W
Book of V
In his strategic master-work, The Book of Five Rings, Musashi reveals...
The Book of Five Rings
...I have finally completed it.

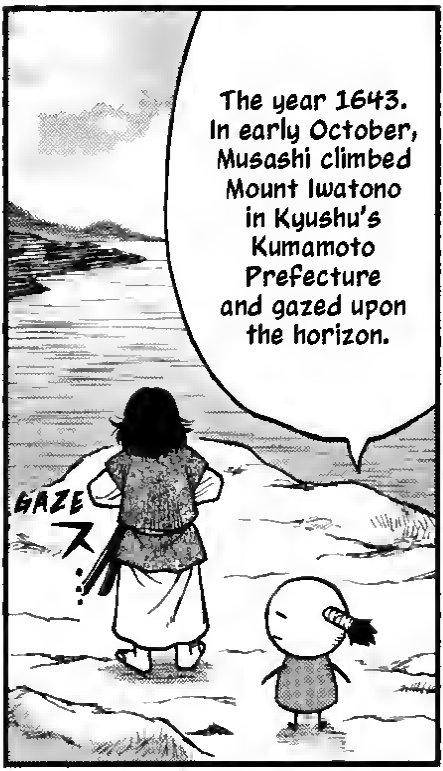
空
VOID
風
WIND
火
FIRE
水
WATER
地
GROUND
THE BOOK OF FIVE RINGS
THE BOOK OF FIVE RINGS TEACHES PEOPLE LIVING IN THE PRESENT DAY WORLD HOW TO OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE.
...INSIGHTFUL UTILITARIAN AND RATIONALISTIC VIEWS, EVEN STOIC PRINCIPLES. MUSASHI DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO BECOMING THE BEST SWORDSMAN IN THE WORLD.


ペコリン
BOW
あ。
Ah.
Nice to meet you.
My name is Navisuke.


Now then...
I hope you will learn them well.
BOOK OF FIRE
BOOK OF WATER
I am your guide through *The Book of Five Rings*.

...there are seldom times when *battle* does not occur.
The samurai era in which Musashi fought constant battles is far in the past.
However, even in today's society...

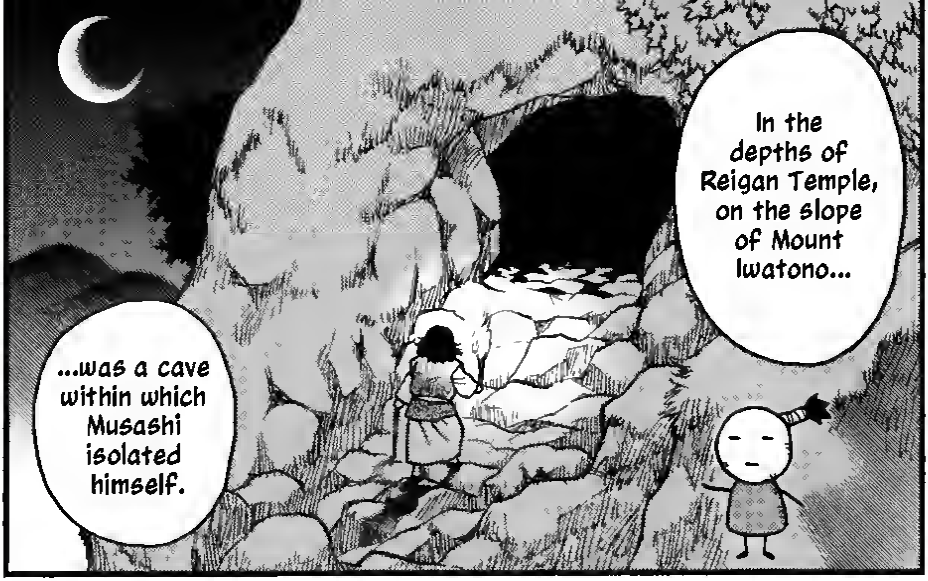
COMPETITION AND CONFLICT
Sports, business, the arts, et cetera...
Broadly speaking, humans are always involved in some form of battle.
Oh.
GRIND
GRIND
A battle now is not like the life-or-death battles of the past.
With that in mind...
...Musashi's lifework, The Book of Five Rings, teaches the best strategies on how to overcome numerous crises and emerge victorious.
His teachings are still relevant in today's society.


The year 1643. In early October, Musashi climbed Mount Iwatono in Kyushu's Kumamoto Prefecture and gazed upon the horizon.
GAZE

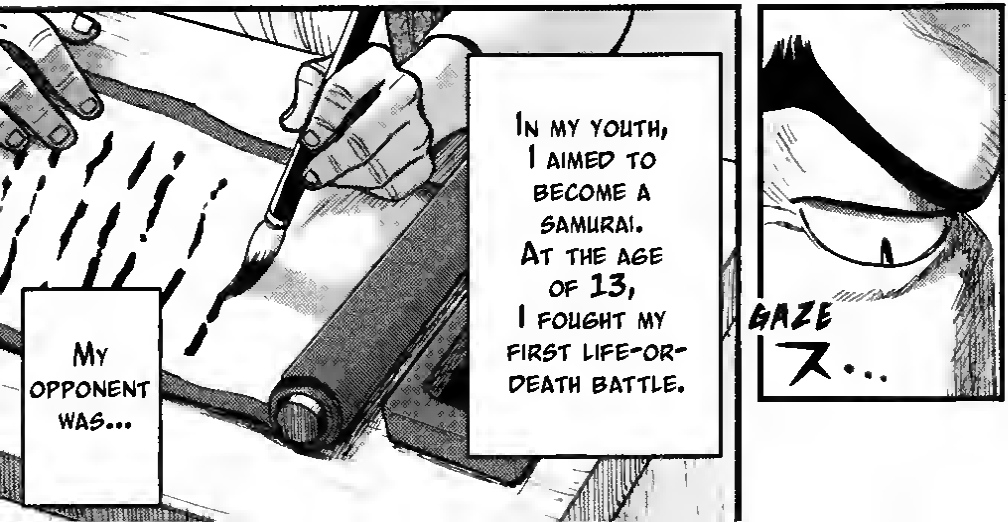
...Shinmen Musashi-no-Kami Fujiwara no Genshin.
A swordsman born in Harima Province...
Musashi named his strategy, Ni Ten Ichi Ryu ...
...and began putting down in writing, his his knowledge gained from many long years of training.

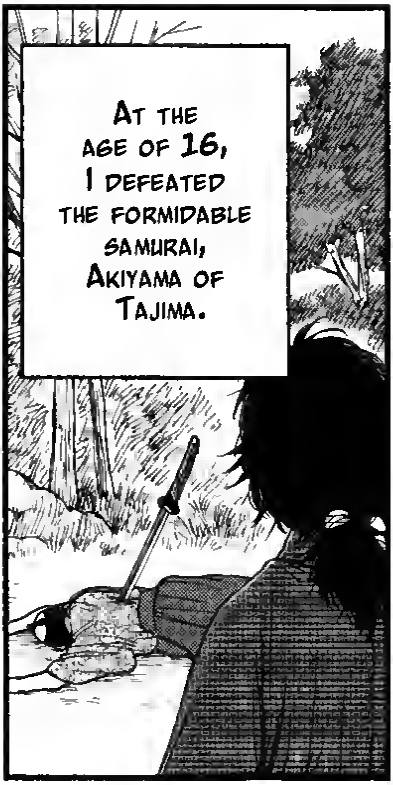
...and kneeled before Buddha.
Preparing his spirit for the large task at hand.
He then prayed to Kannon...

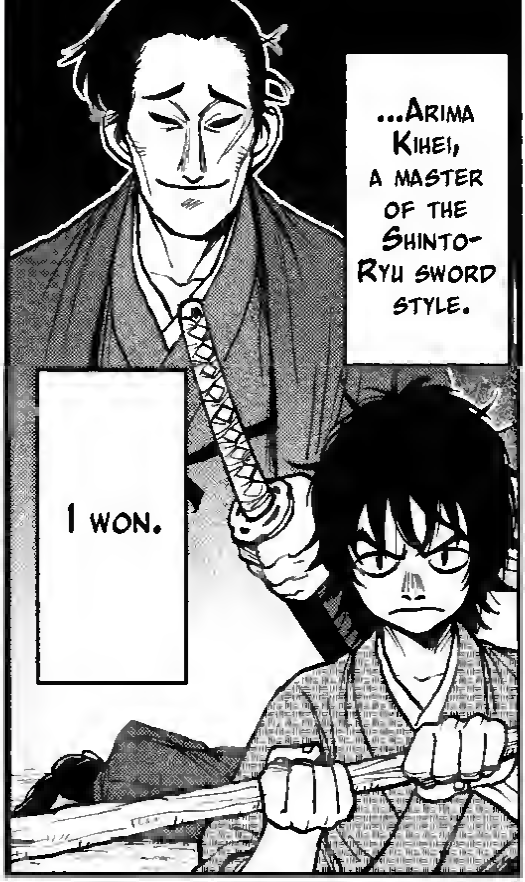
A true samurai.
This was Musashi at the age of 60.

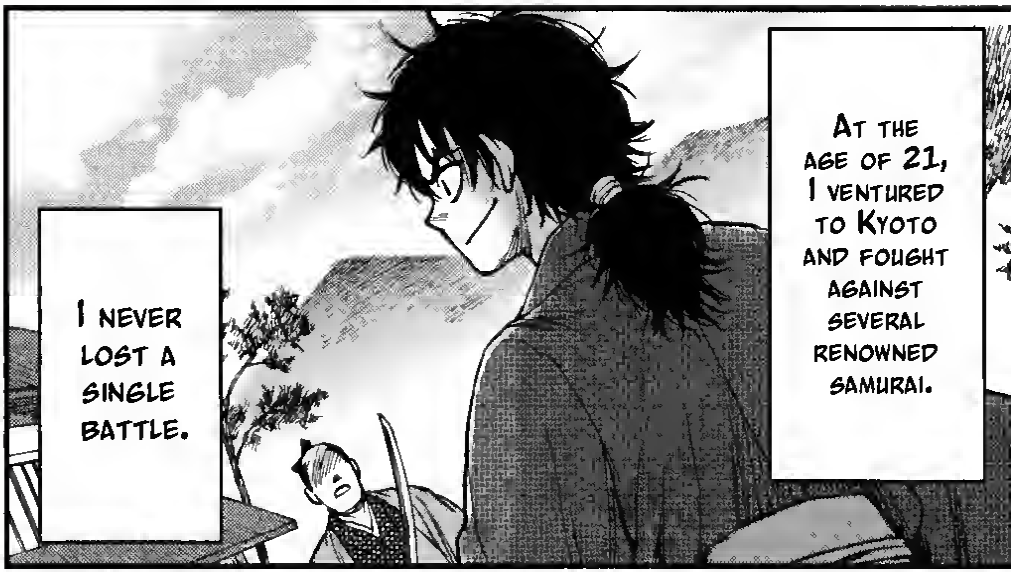

In the depths of Reigan Temple, on the slope of Mount Iwatono...
...was a cave within which Musashi isolated himself.

Recalling the journey he took in mastering the way of the sword, he then set out to put it in writing.

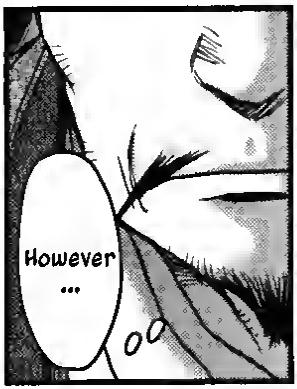

In my youth, I aimed to become a samurai. At the age of 13, I fought my first life-or-death battle.
My opponent was...
GAZE
ス...

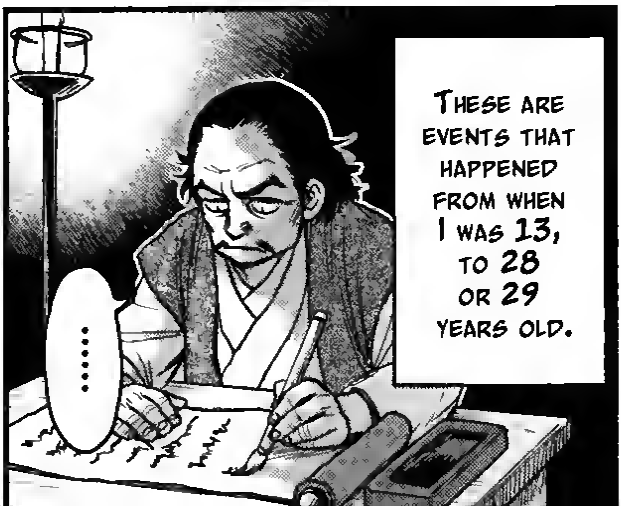

At the age of 16, I defeated the formidable samurai, Akiyama of Tajima.


...Arima Kihei, a master of the Shinto-Ryu sword style.
I won.


At the age of 21, I ventured to Kyoto and fought against several renowned samurai.
I never lost a single battle.

Afterwards, I traveled around the country and dueled with samurai from various schools.
Though I had fought over 60 duels...
...not once had I not emerged completely victorious.


However ...

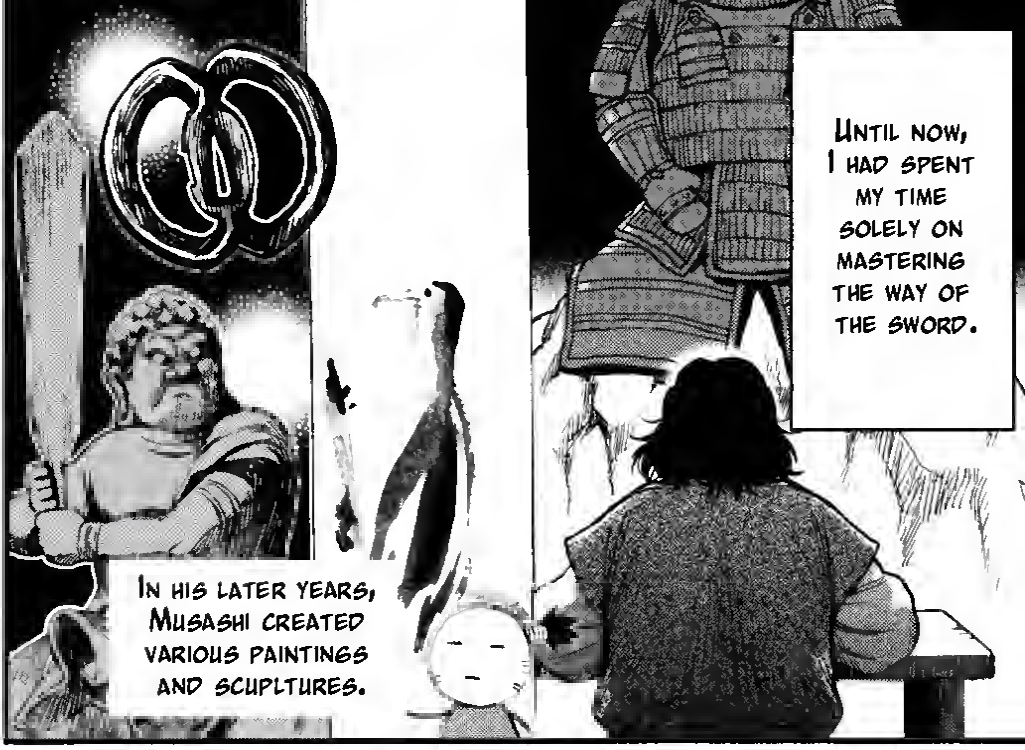

These are events that happened from when I was 13, to 28 or 29 years old.
.....

After I turned 30...
...I began to reflect back on all my duels.
I came to the realization that my victories ...
...were not due to my mastery of the way of the sword.

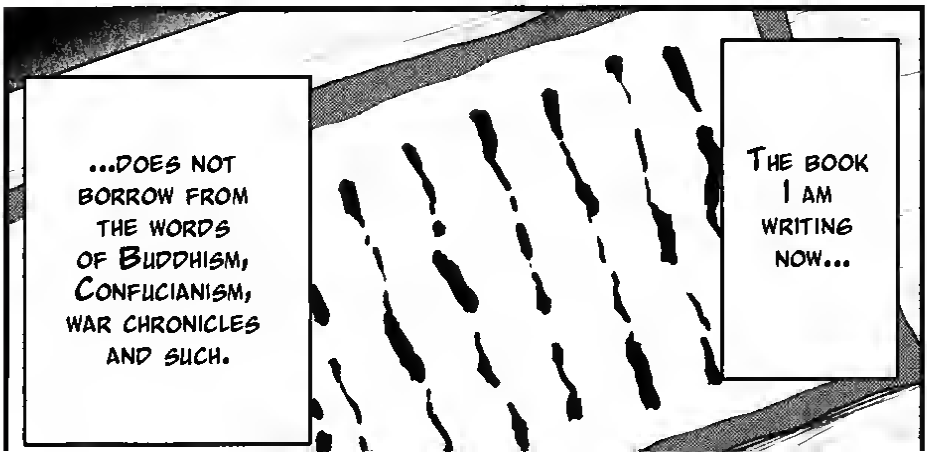
Perhaps it was my natural abilities that helped me succeed, or because the heavens ordained that I should never lose by the sword.
Or perhaps the skills of my opponents from other schools may have been lacking.

CLENCH
I could not find an answer.

When I had at last mastered the way of the sword...
...I trained continuously.
In order to truly understand the way of the sword...
...I welcomed my 50th birthday.
Yes.


In his later years, Musashi created various paintings and sculptures.
Until now, I had spent my time solely on mastering the way of the sword.

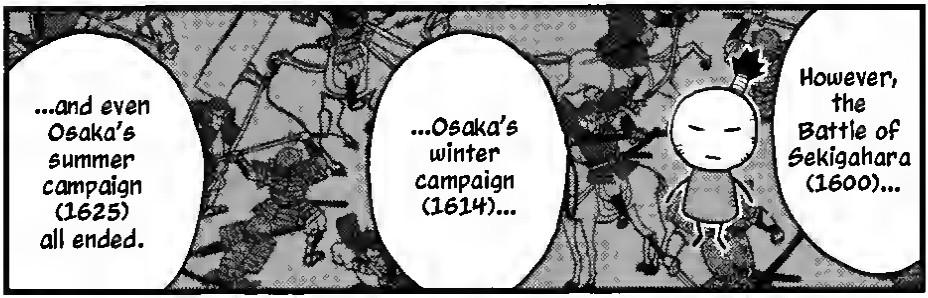
There is no need to make a request of someone to teach you in all things.
Everything leads to my way of strategy.

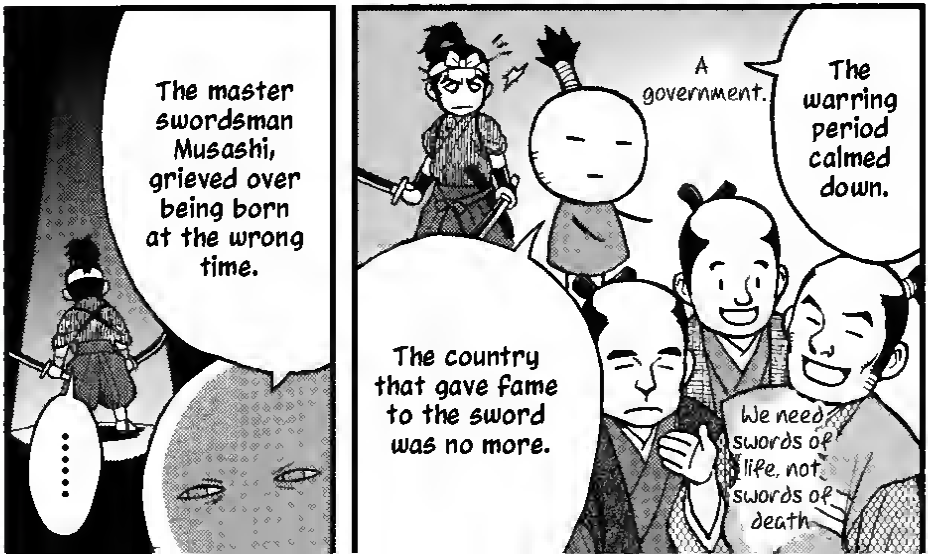

...does not borrow from the words of Buddhism, Confucianism, war chronicles and such.
The book I am writing now...

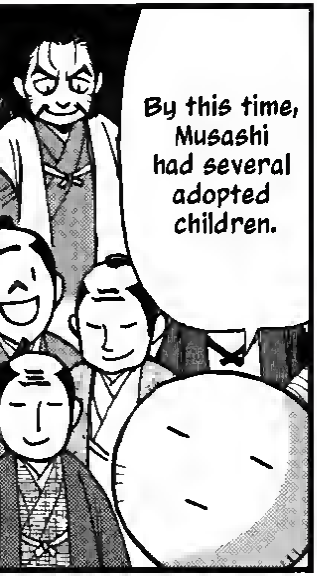
It is now October 10th, 4 PM...
...embodies my unclouded views on the way of strategy.
Ni Ten Ichi Ryu...
With brush in hand...
...I begin to write.
...during his later years when he fell ill and felt his death was near.
It is said that Musashi left us this book...
This was how *The Book of Five Rings* was written.

I will rise in the world with the sword!
He aimed to make a career with the sword.
He journeyed around the country from the age of 16 (1599).

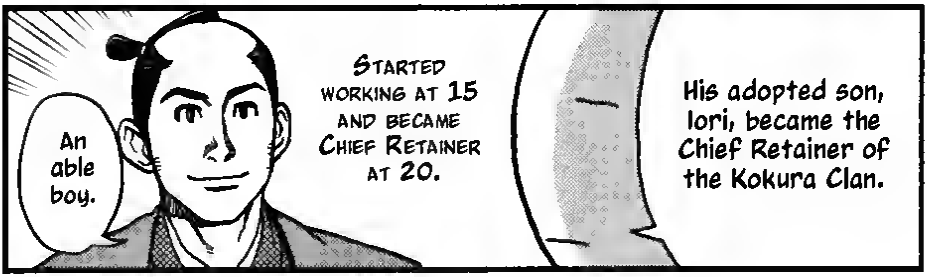
He was also said to have been an expert in Jutte martial arts.
Musashi was schooled under his father, Shinmen Muninosuke, from the time he was an infant.


However, the Battle of Sekigahara (1600)...
...Osaka's winter campaign (1614)...
...and even Osaka's summer campaign (1625) all ended.


The warring period calmed down.
A government.
We need swords of life, not swords of death
The country that gave fame to the sword was no more.
The master swordsman Musashi, grieved over being born at the wrong time.
.....


By this time, Musashi had several adopted children.

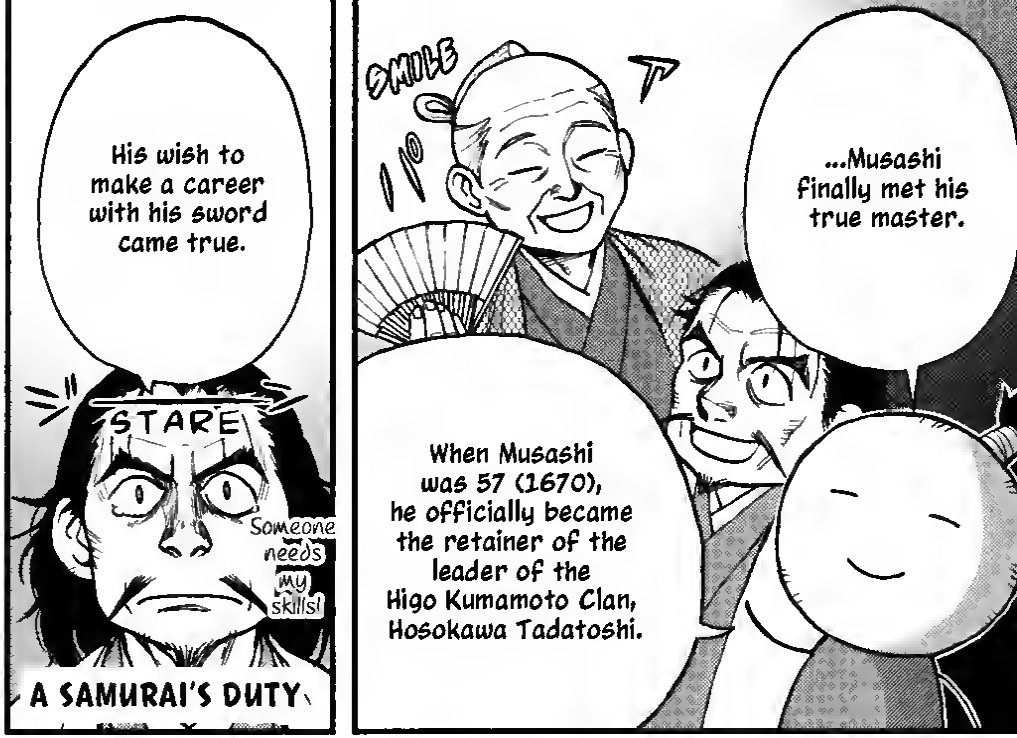
Months passed and Musashi turned 51 (1634).
He moved to Kyushu and became a guest of the Kokura Clan leader, Ogasawara Tadazane.

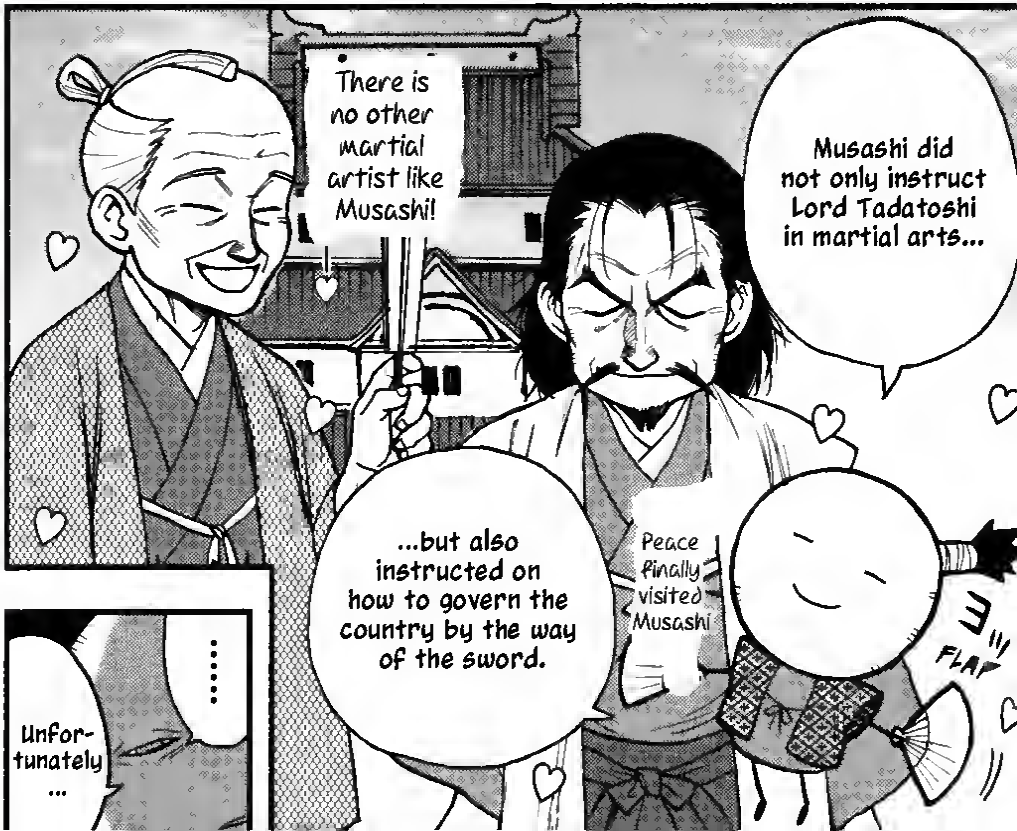

An able boy.
STARTED WORKING AT 15 AND BECAME CHIEF RETAINER AT 20.
His adopted son, Iori, became the Chief Retainer of the Kokura Clan.

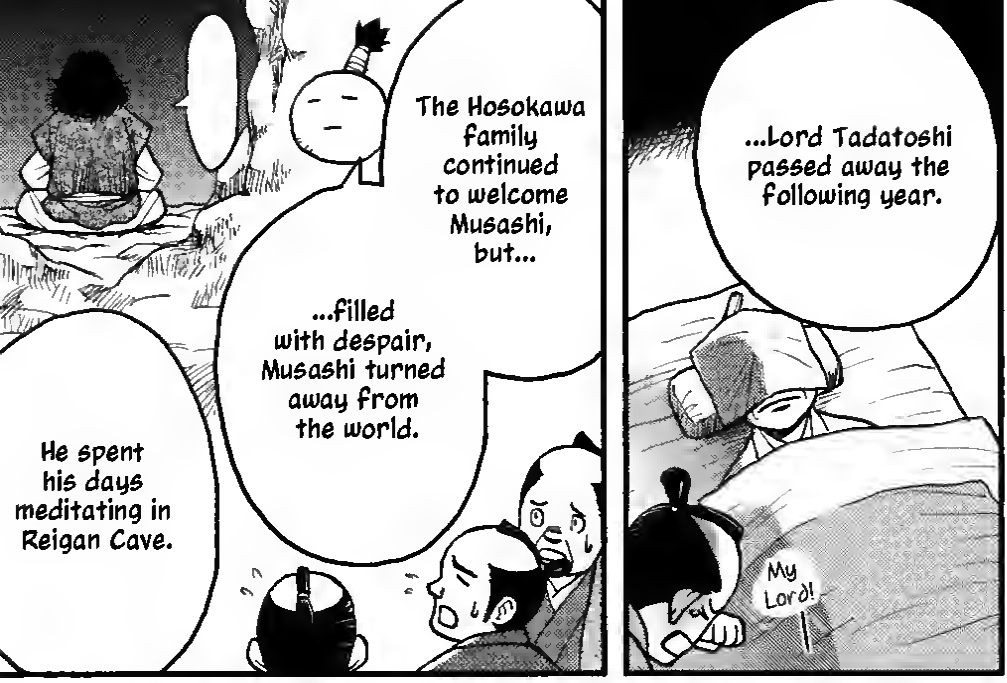
...it wasn't that Musashi was not yet officially employed by the Kokura Clan...

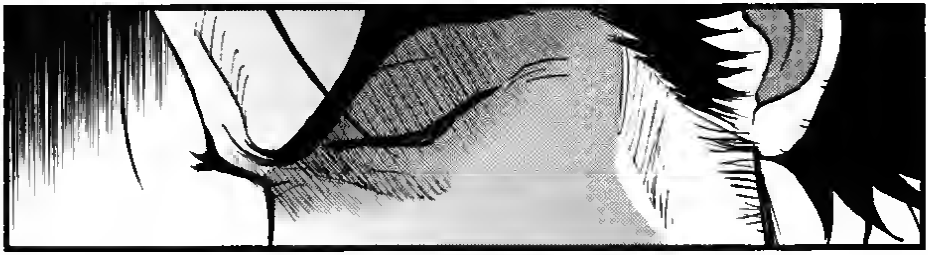
Rather that...

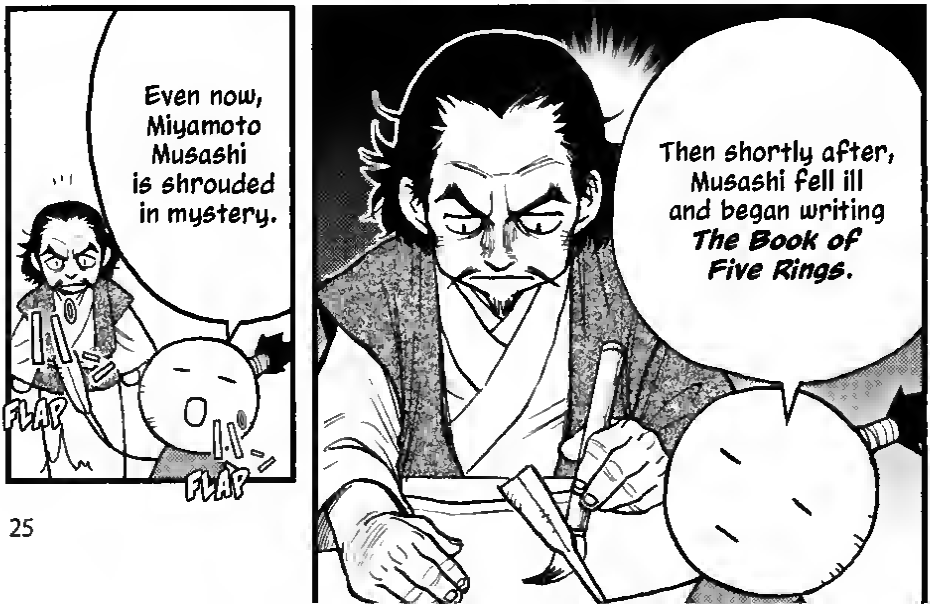
There are records of Musashi and Iori having participated in the Shimabara Rebellion as military advisors (1637).
How-ever...


His wish to make a career with his sword came true.
STARE
Someone needs my skills!
A SAMURAI'S DUTY
SMILE
...Musashi finally met his true master.
When Musashi was 57 (1670), he officially became the retainer of the leader of the Higo Kumamoto Clan, Hosokawa Tadatoshi.


There is no other martial artist like Musashi!
Musashi did not only instruct Lord Tadatoshi in martial arts...
...but also instructed on how to govern the country by the way of the sword.
Peace finally visited Musashi
FLAP
.....
Unfor-tunately ...


He spent his days meditating in Reigan Cave.
...filled with despair, Musashi turned away from the world.
The Hosokawa family continued to welcome Musashi, but...
...Lord Tadatoshi passed away the following year.
My Lord!




Even now, Miyamoto Musashi is shrouded in mystery.
FLAP
FLAP
Then shortly after, Musashi fell ill and began writing *The Book of Five Rings*.

The current image of Musashi is based largely on the work of writer Eiji Yoshikawa.
The documents supporting his upbringing and career are very few, but true.

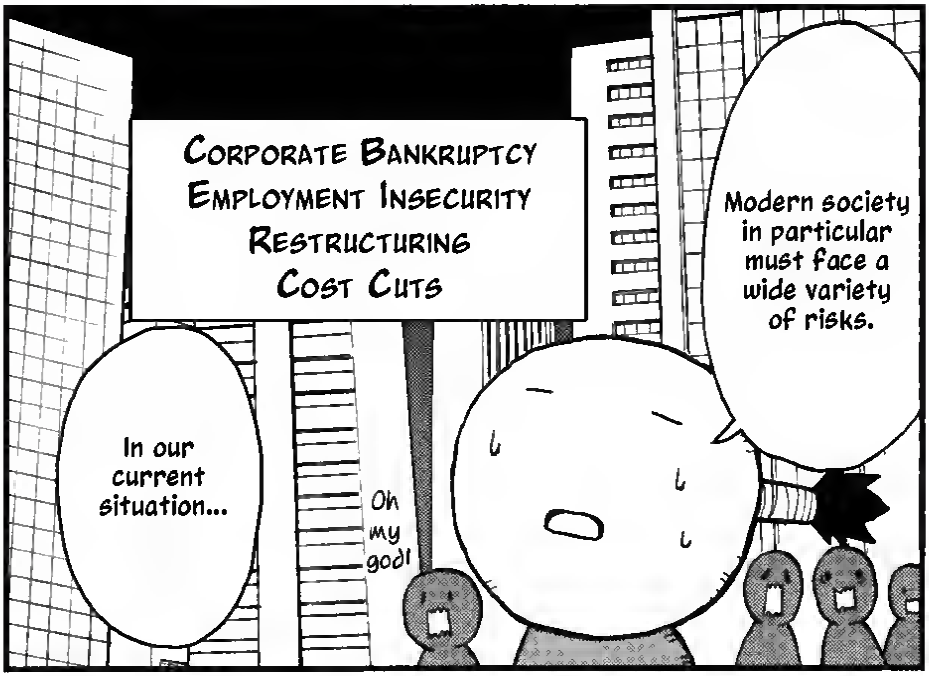
Ichijo-ji Sagarimatsu
No one denies its truth.
The duel with Yoshioka Ichimon when Musashi went to Kyoto...
...and his most famous duel against Sasaki Kojiro at Ganryujima when he was 29, have no supporting written records.
You have lost, Kojiro!
What?!

The same for *The Book of Five Rings*.

This work was surely something acquired over a lifetime.
Musashi must have written it as a strategy guide for future generations.
GLINT
PEEK
Musashi is truly a person surrounded by various rumors.
Which is ridiculous
Like he wasn't even a master swordsman
Not only that...
BOOK OF WIND
BOOK OF FIRE
BOOK OF VOID
BOOK OF GROUND
Musashi's *way of strategy* ...
...is the wisdom of the way of the sword that survived the battlefields.
But, there are not only sword and war strategies!

His work contains crisis management awareness backed by human experience in the dangers of daily life.
Even the general public can relate to this practical outlook.
That sharp judgment...
...and insight...
...can be clearly seen...
BOOK OF GROUND
BOOK OF WATER
BOOK OF FIRE
BOOK OF WIND
BOOK OF VOID
空之巻
風之巻
火之巻
水之巻
地之巻
...in the lines that make up The Book of Five Rings.

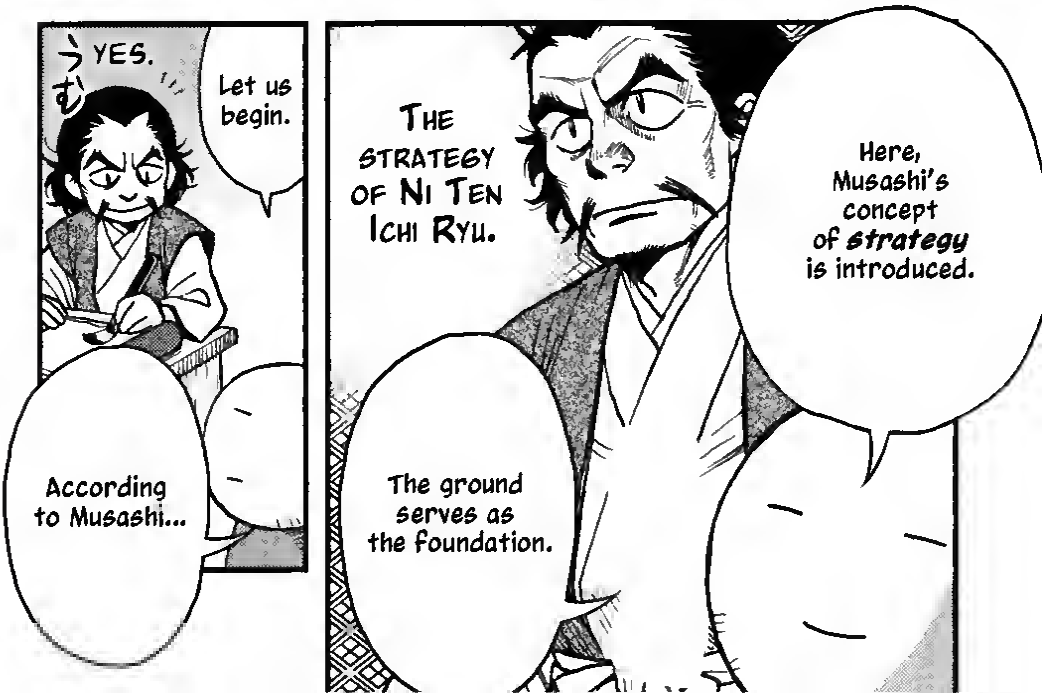
And!
VOID
WIND
Ground, Water, Fire, Wind, and Void are elements in Buddhist thought.
Making up The Book of Five Rings.
Elements that make up the universe!
GROUND
WATER
FIRE


CORPORATE BANKRUPTCY
EMPLOYMENT INSECURITY
RESTRUCTURING
COST CUTS
Modern society in particular must face a wide variety of risks.
In our current situation...
Oh my god!

You shall see.

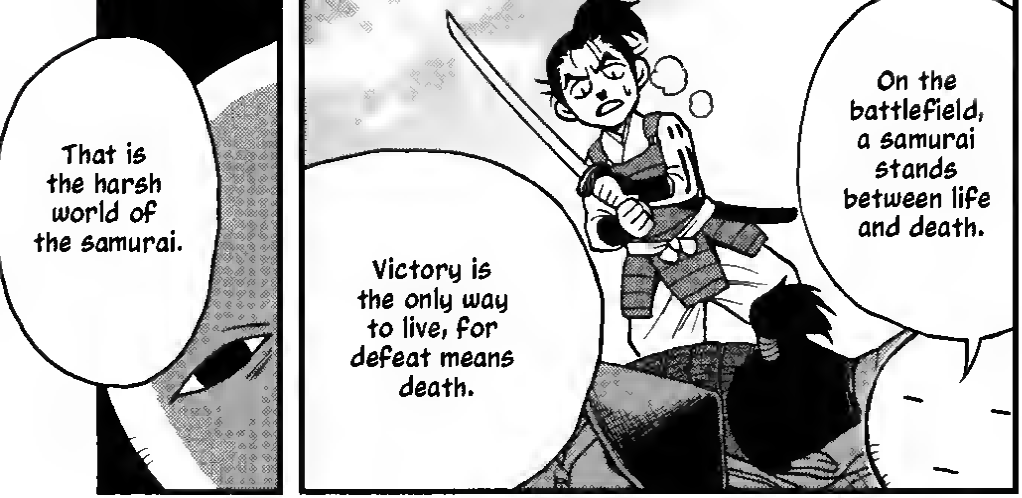
SPARKLE
...will be extremely helpful!
...the teachings of rationalism and utilitarianism in The Book of Five Rings...

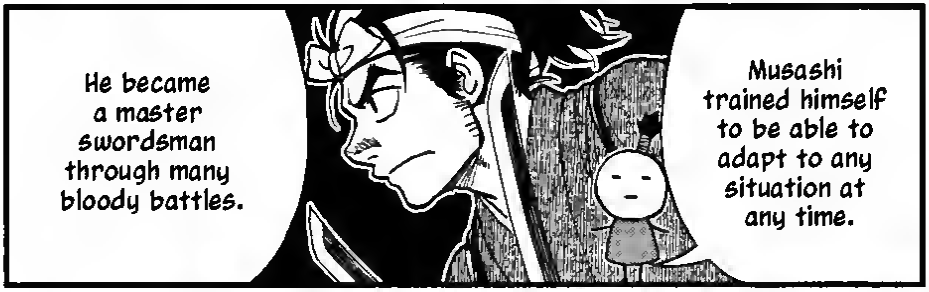
TAH-DAH
BOOK OF GROUND
Well then.
I will start off by explaining The Book of Ground.
OMPH!
THE BOOK OF GROUND

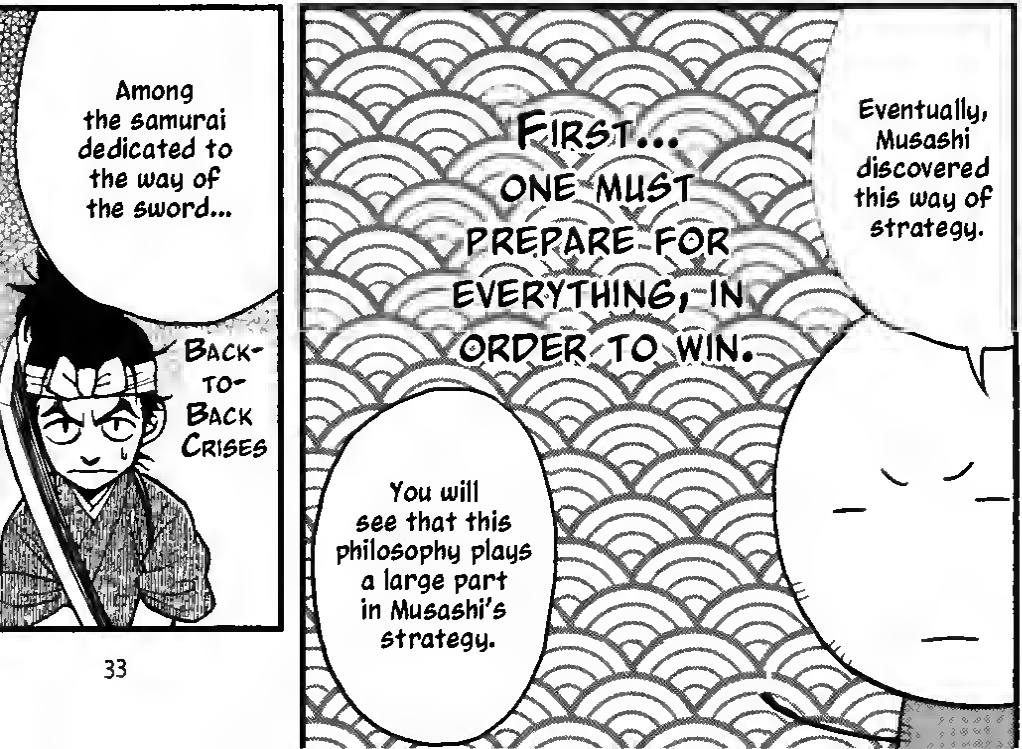

YES.
Let us begin.
According to Musashi...
THE STRATEGY OF NI TEN ICHI RYU.
Here, Musashi's concept of strategy is introduced.
The ground serves as the foundation.

Indeed it was.
LAW
...strategy is the law of the samurai.
That was stated at the beginning of The Book of Ground.
LITERARY AND MARTIAL ARTS
A warrior must abide by the law of the samurai.
He must study both literary and martial arts.
Why must samurai walk both paths of literary and martial arts?
The purpose is to...
NEO-CONFUCIANISM
CONFUCIANISM
ZEN
Even if you have no natural ability you must train assiduously in both areas within your own ability
For it is important to strengthen...
...one's knowledge, spirit, and skills.

When in individual combat...
...or when in a large-scale battle...
...a samurai obtains power and fame for themself or their lord.
Well done!
...attain victory in any given situation.
Consider this.
Of course...
...how you would attain victory...
...depends on your mastery of the literary and martial arts.
As well as your ability to apply it to your daily life.
I see...

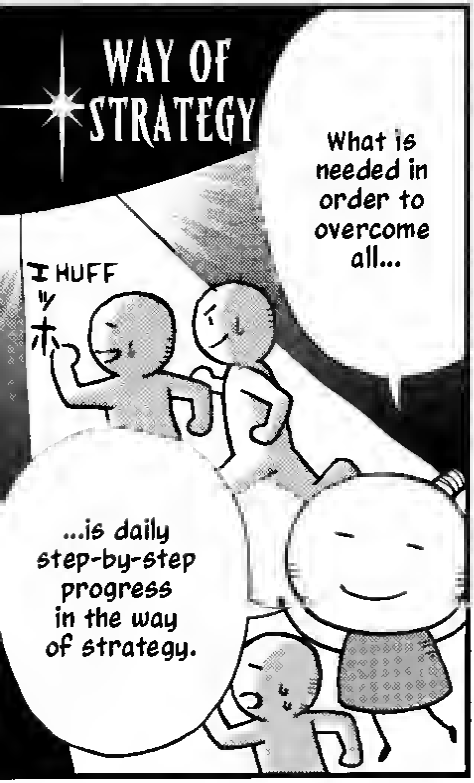

That is the harsh world of the samurai.
On the battlefield, a samurai stands between life and death.
Victory is the only way to live, for defeat means death.

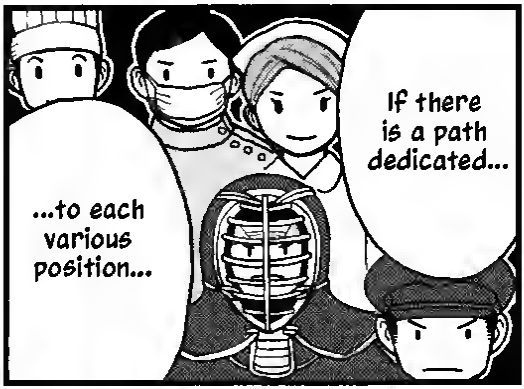

He became a master swordsman through many bloody battles.
Musashi trained himself to be able to adapt to any situation at any time.

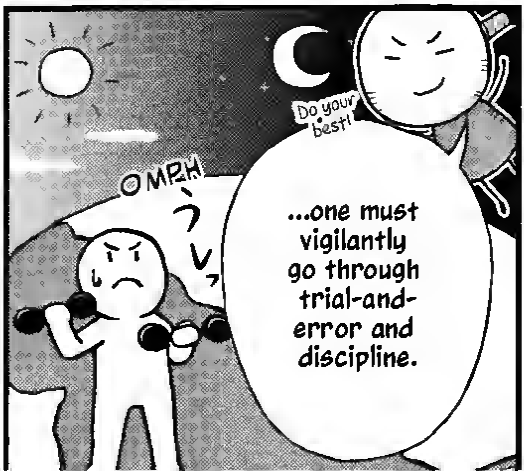

Among the samurai dedicated to the way of the sword...
Back-to-Back Crises
First... one must prepare for everything, in order to win.
Eventually, Musashi discovered this way of strategy.
You will see that this philosophy plays a large part in Musashi's strategy.

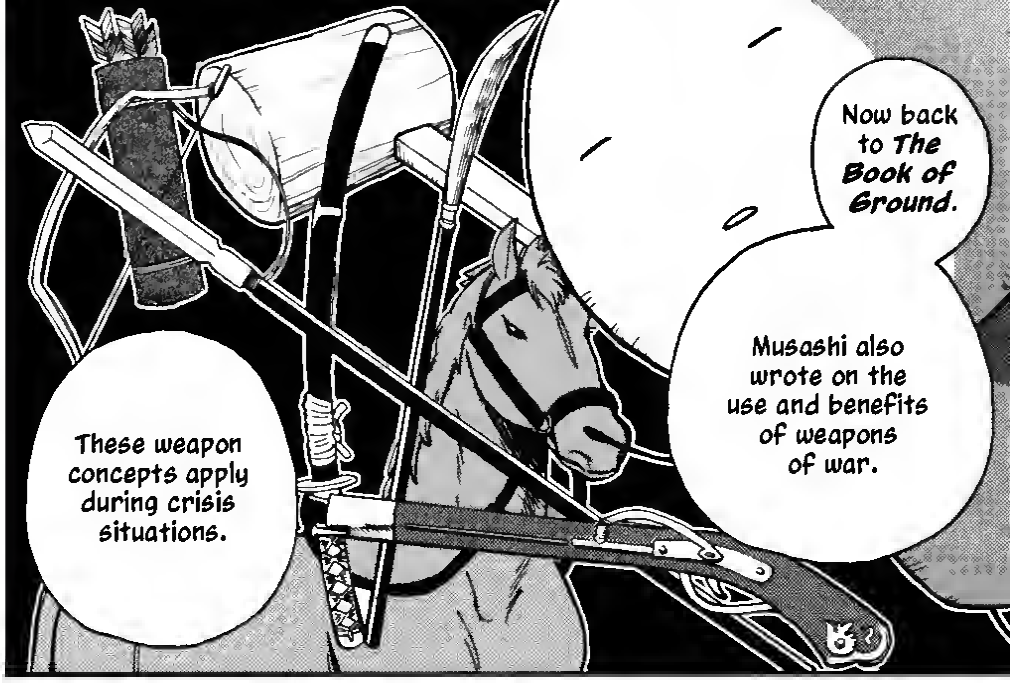
...WHAT IS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION?
The process involves devising a strategy by examining your own thoughts.
WHEN FIGHTING ONE-AGAINST-MANY...
...there is a process to finding a clear means to win.
Before you can defeat others, you must defeat oneself.
Negate one's desires and live simply
ZEN
禅
In ancient times...
Compared to the samurai world...
...we now live in a time of peace.
...opens the way to survival.
Efficiently eliminating one's own wastefulness ...

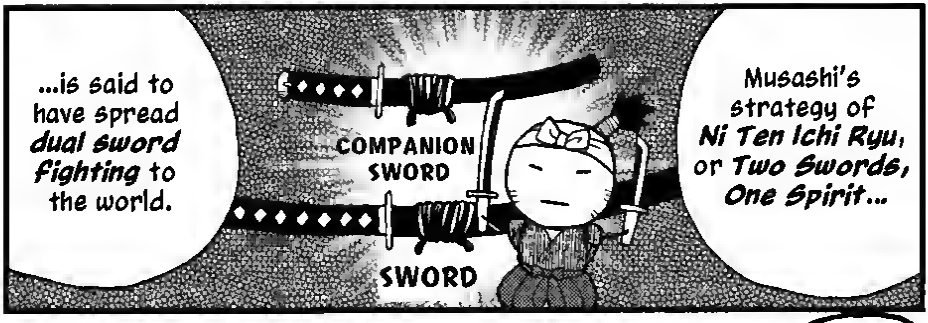
FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE OPPONENT
Musashi's way of strategy comes in very handy.
Whether it's athletes, businessmen, or writers...
...there exist many types of battlefields.
CLENCH


WAY OF STRATEGY
What is needed in order to overcome all...
HUFF
...is daily step-by-step progress in the way of strategy.


If there is a path dedicated...
...to each various position...


Do your best!
OMPH
...one must vigilantly go through trial-and-error and discipline.


Now back to *The Book of Ground*.
Musashi also wrote on the use and benefits of weapons of war.
These weapon concepts apply during crisis situations.


...is said to have spread *dual sword fighting* to the world.
COMPANION SWORD
SWORD
Musashi's strategy of *Ni Ten Ichi Ryu*, or *Two Swords, One Spirit*...

But, this is wrong.
Many bronze statues of the brave warrior were even erected.
Lots of Musashis wielding drawn swords.
Musashi was famous as a dual sword user.

WAVER
Ughhh..
Musashi's The Book of Ground states that...
...it is difficult to use two weapons, one in each hand, at the same time.
In actuality, Musashi's Ni Ten Ichi Ryu does not recommend always using two swords in combat.
TWO
ONE
The meaning of two swords...
...but the ability to wield a sword with only one hand.
SWISH
...is not the practice of using two swords simultaneously ...
SWISH
NOD
Indeed.
Meaning that, holding a sword with both hands is not the natural way to wield a sword.
Huh?
Musashi's concepts are always practical.

Running on foot or on horseback...
CHARGE!
It can't be helped with large weapons like spears and halberds...
...but swords are one-handed weapons.
Or trapped in a crowd.
ギュウ
SQUISH
RUBBLE
MARSH
Stuck in a confined area...
HARSH MOUNTAIN PATHS
DEEP RICE FIELDS
That is not all.
SO ANNOYING!
I can see that
It is inconvenient to hold a sword with both hands.

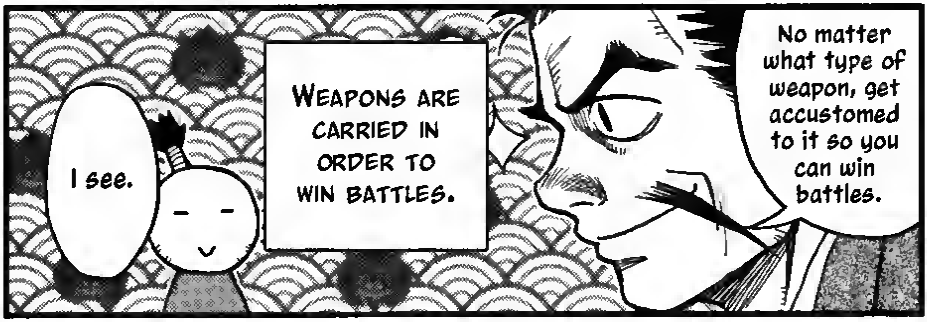
HIYAH!
セイヤ!
DOJO
Holding a sword with both hands is not suitable for battle.
Hmm
One arm may also end up injured.
There are times when one hand may be occupied with a spear, bow, or *other thing*.
SPURT
...they must be able to fully utilize both.
Since all samurai must carry a sword and a companion sword...
Allow me to explain.
That is correct.
I see. It is inexcusable for a samurai not to master the weapons he carries.

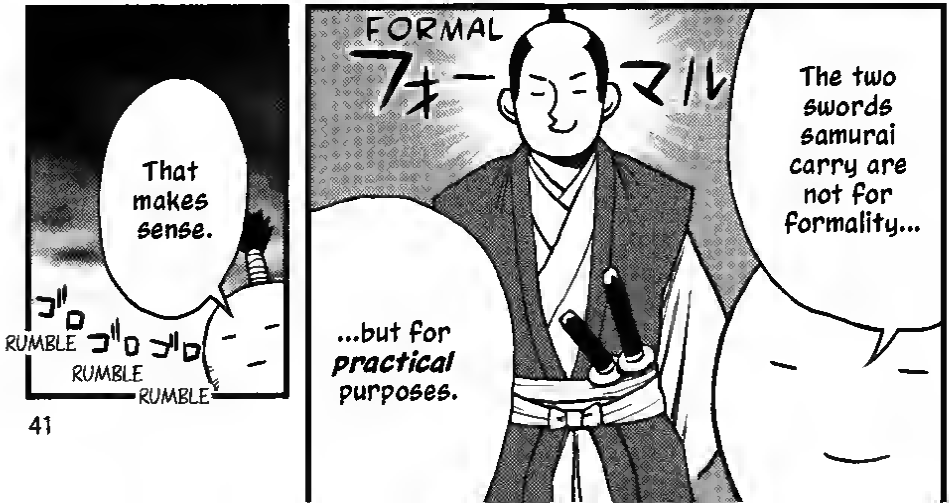
There are times when it is better to hold two swords than one.
Such as, in situations of one-against-many.
Or when one is in a small, confined space.

Short swords are better for confined places.
Or during close combat.

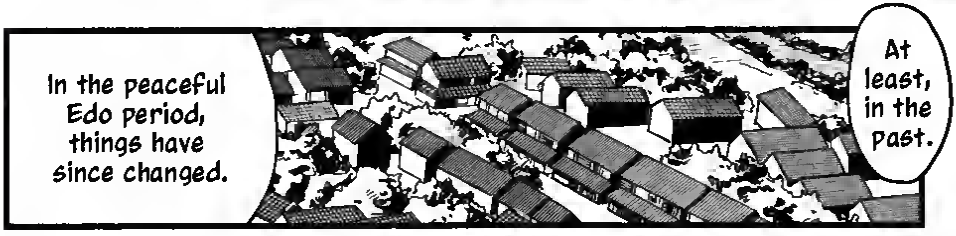
WHOOSH
The long sword can be used in almost any situation.
Spacious areas are easier to swing in.

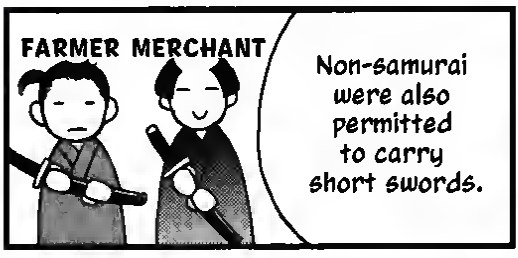
The spirit of two-sword style allows victory with a short or long sword.
It accustoms one to use any weapon in order to win.
OHHH

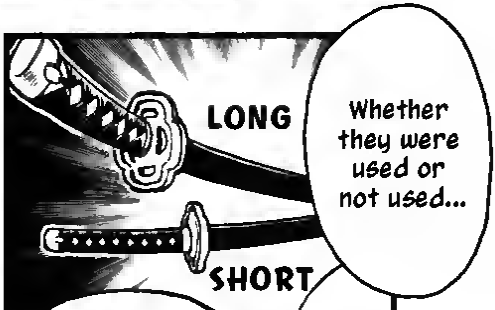

No matter what type of weapon, get accustomed to it so you can win battles.
WEAPONS ARE CARRIED IN ORDER TO WIN BATTLES.
I see.

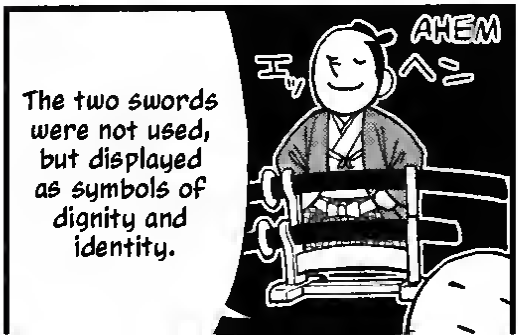

The two swords samurai carry are not for formality...
FORMAL
フォーマル
...but for *practical* purposes.
That makes sense.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

In order to defeat many enemies on the battlefield...
...samurai needed to carry spare weapons.
A spare weapon is indispensable in situations where a sword breaks during battle.


In the peaceful Edo period, things have since changed.
At least, in the past.

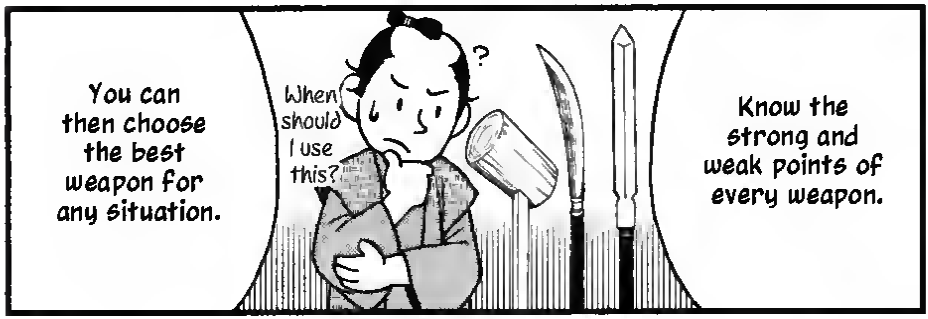

FARMER MERCHANT
Non-samurai were also permitted to carry short swords.


LONG
SHORT
Whether they were used or not used...
...the law of the samurai decreed that all samurai must always carry two swords when outdoors.

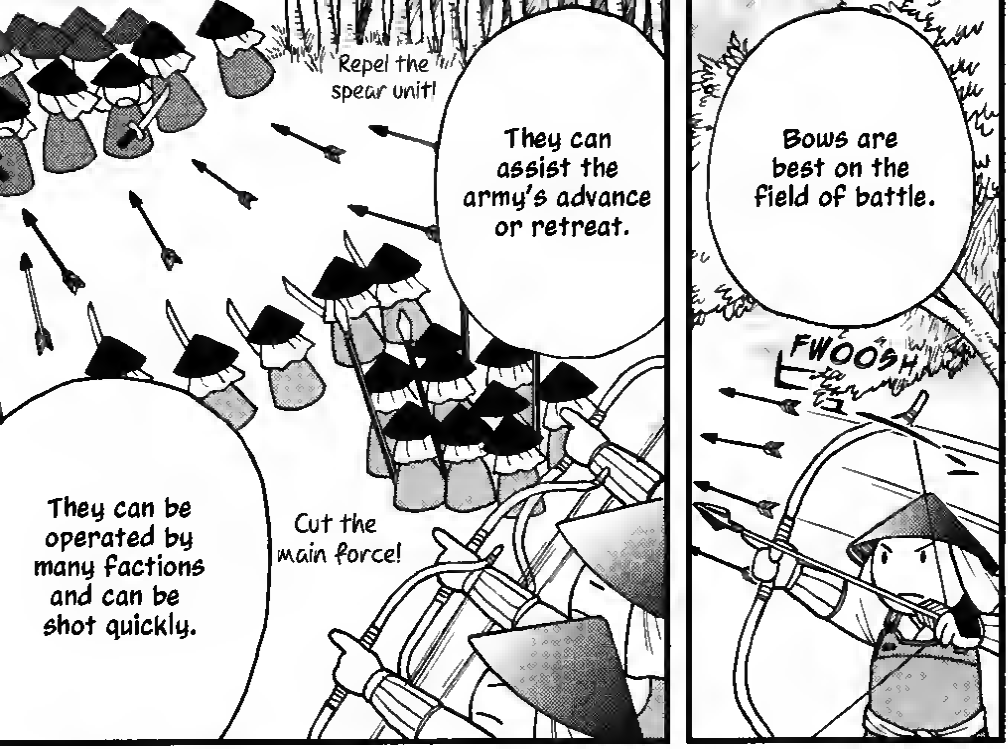

AHEM
エッヘン
The two swords were not used, but displayed as symbols of dignity and identity.

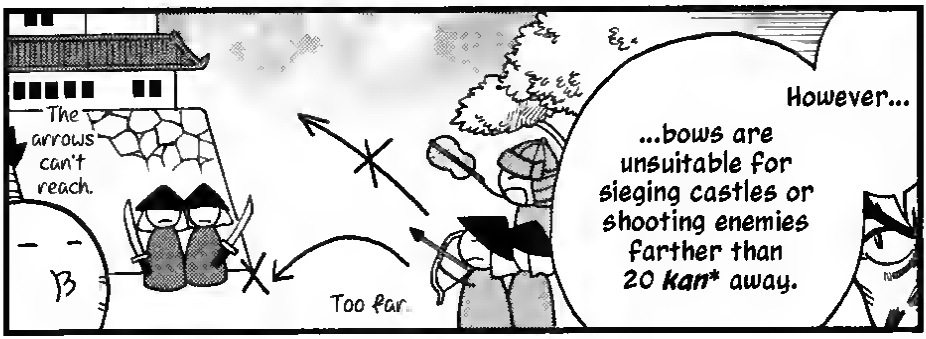
It is nonsense to carry weapons and not know how to use them
...but were a defensive tactic against a crisis.
They have a practical purpose.
That was what two-sword style was meant to demonstrate.
Musashi did not agree.
I'm skilled!
To him, the two swords were not only for formality...
The sword should be an indicator of self for the samurai.
Within Musashi's The Book of Five Rings...
POWER, CAUTION, PHILOSOPHY, AND THE WAY OF STRATEGY.
...two-sword style teaches you to...
...adapt flexibly to your environment.
And to think flexibly, outside of any fixed ideas.

Further-more...
Though Musashi says to accustom yourself to your weapon...
うむ HMPH
...he also says not to become fixated on it.
One should be well versed in many weaponry skills.

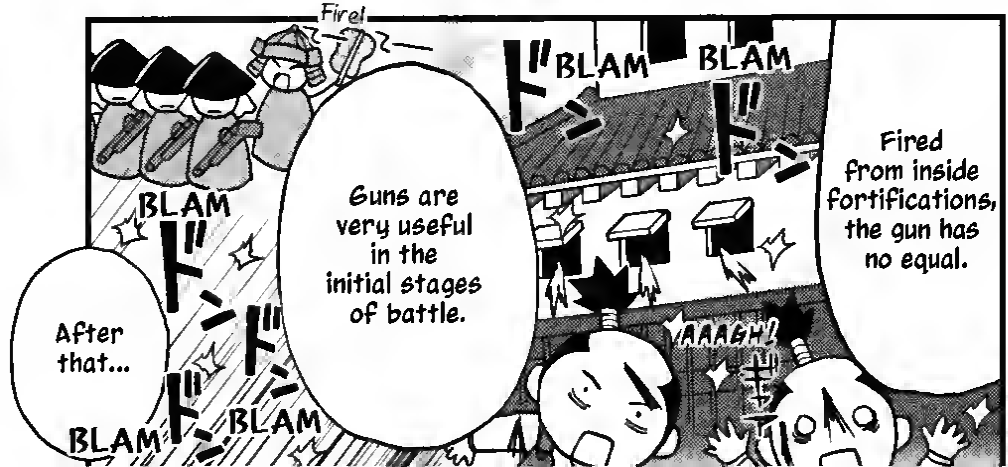

You can then choose the best weapon for any situation.
When should I use this?
?
Know the strong and weak points of every weapon.

LONG WEAPONS
Long and short swords have already been explained.
Spears and halberds are solely for the battlefield.
They are not suitable for confined areas.
OHH
They cannot be used to surround the enemy
If you had the same degree of training in both, the spear would be more effective.


Repel the spear unit!
They can assist the army's advance or retreat.
Bows are best on the field of battle.
FWOOSH
They can be operated by many factions and can be shot quickly.
Cut the main force!


The arrows can't reach.
Too far.
However...
...bows are unsuitable for sieging castles or shooting enemies farther than 20 *kan** away.

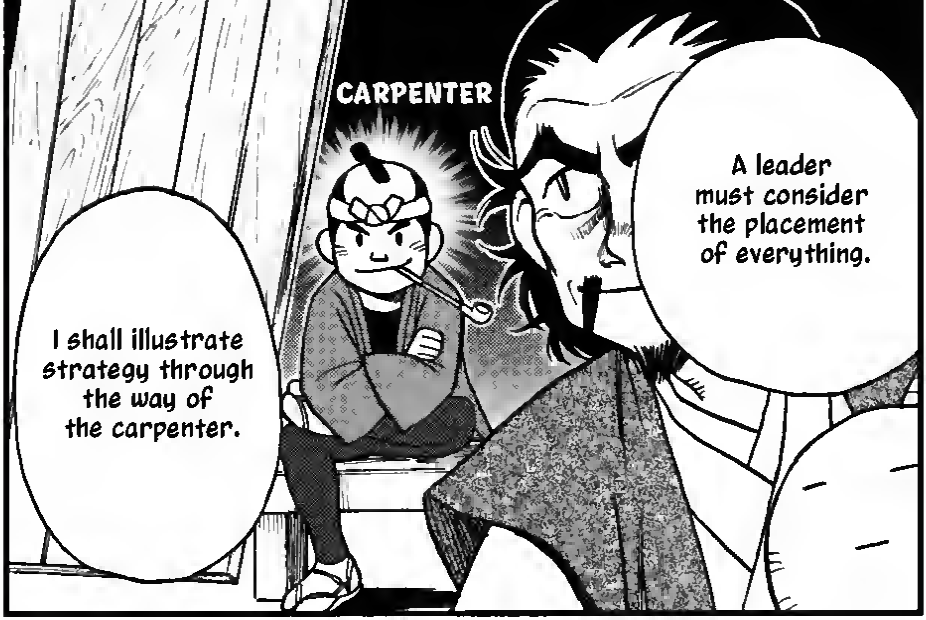
*Approximately 20 meters.



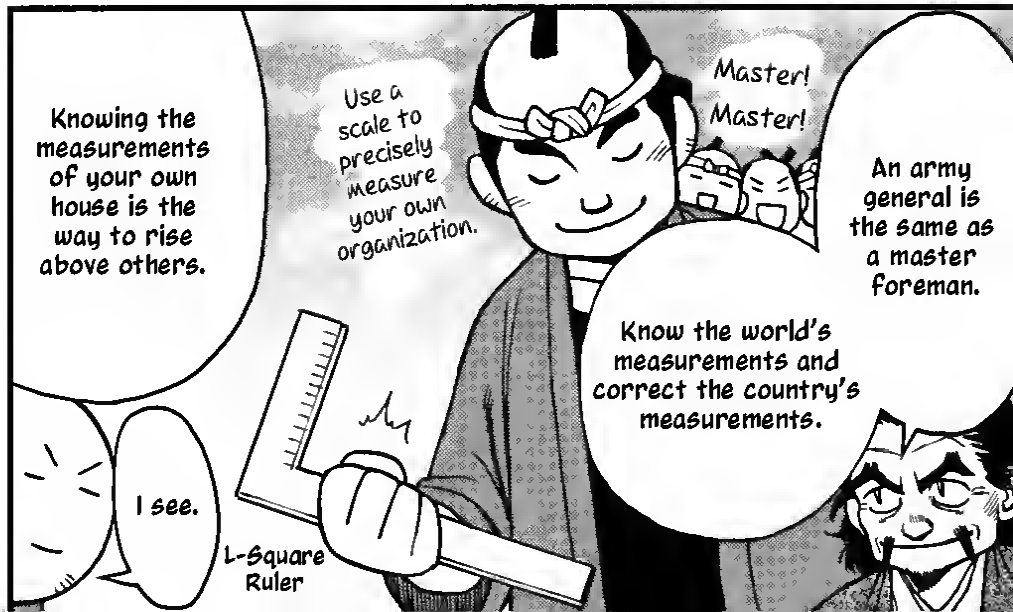
SWOOSH
BLAM
The bow's strongpoint is the visibility of its arrows.
With guns, since the results of bullets can't be seen, aim is critically important.
Hit or miss?
...they are useless once swords clash.
SQUISH
FREE-FOR-ALL FIGHT
NEIGH
The same goes for horses.
They should be strong with endurance, and no bad habits.
All weapons have strong and weak points, but weapons with width and thickness are best.
Battles often drag on.
Sharp and durable weapons are also ideal.
Guns and bows must also be sturdy.
Regard-less...
The most important thing is...

These are used for rice and soup.
BAMBOO LADLE*
...to treasure all tools without bias.
Improving in only one area restricts your flexibility, making victory less likely.
Likewise...
Having too many weapons...
This and that.
Can he use them all?
...is the same as not having enough weapons.
Use tools suitable for your situation, without imitating others.
WHAT YOU ARE CURRENTLY MOST COMFORTABLE USING.
It must be something that is suitable for you.
A commander or soldiers should not have likes and dislikes.
That's right.

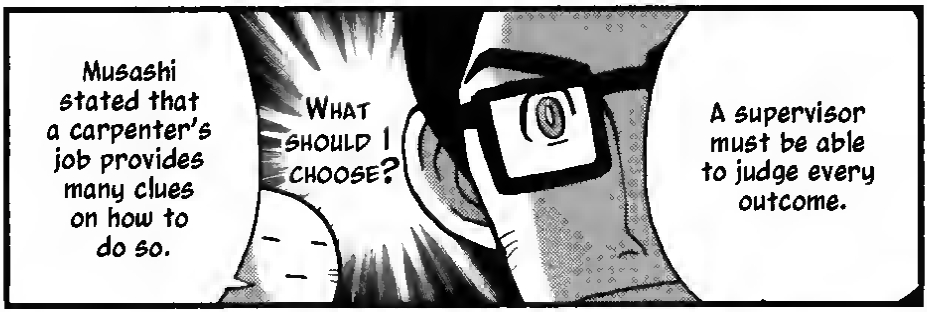
*Long ago, ladles had bent handles and were used as the standard measuring tool, judging all other matters with a fixed criteria and form that became inflexible.


CARPENTER
A leader must consider the placement of everything.
I shall illustrate strategy through the way of the carpenter.

THE SKILL TO DEVISE LARGE SCHEMES.
Carpenters must make master plans.
This is similar to the way of strategy.

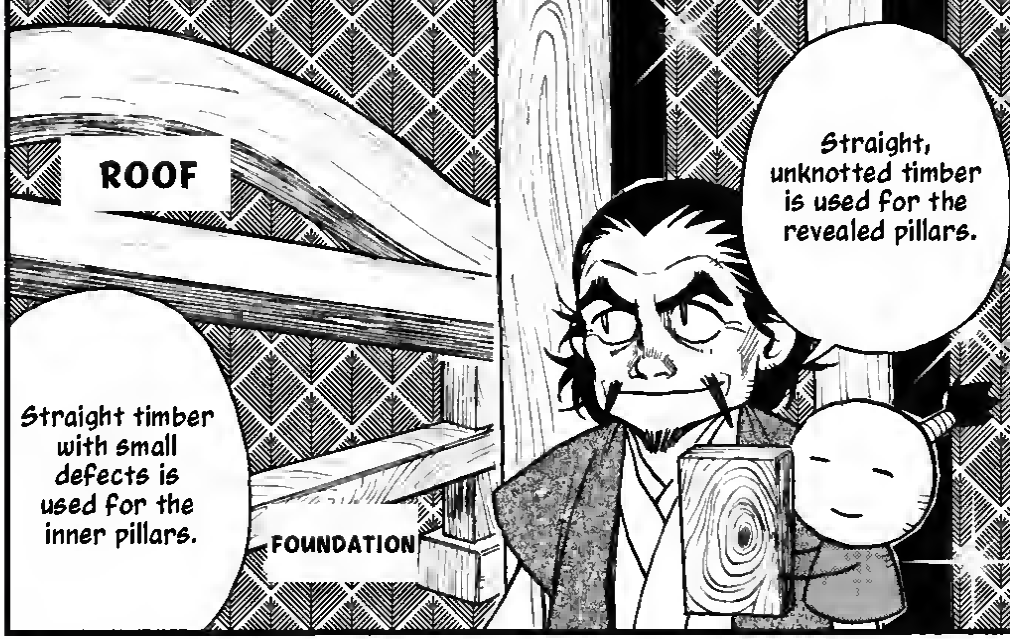

Master! Master!
An army general is the same as a master foreman.
Use a scale to precisely measure your own organization.
Know the world's measurements and correct the country's measurements.
Knowing the measurements of your own house is the way to rise above others.
I see.
L-Square Ruler

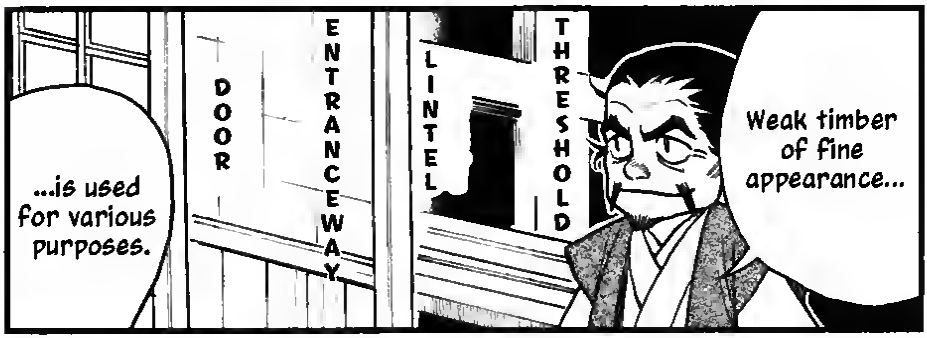
Familiarize yourself with the current state of affairs...
...and build the best criteria for yourself.
Musashi's concept...
...is not only limited to carpenters.


Musashi stated that a carpenter's job provides many clues on how to do so.
WHAT SHOULD I CHOOSE?
A supervisor must be able to judge every outcome.

He skillfully arranges various raw materials.
Allow me to explain.
HMMM

When a master foreman builds a house...
...he does not only use sturdy and straight wood.


ROOF
Straight timber with small defects is used for the inner pillars.
FOUNDATION
Straight, unknotted timber is used for the revealed pillars.

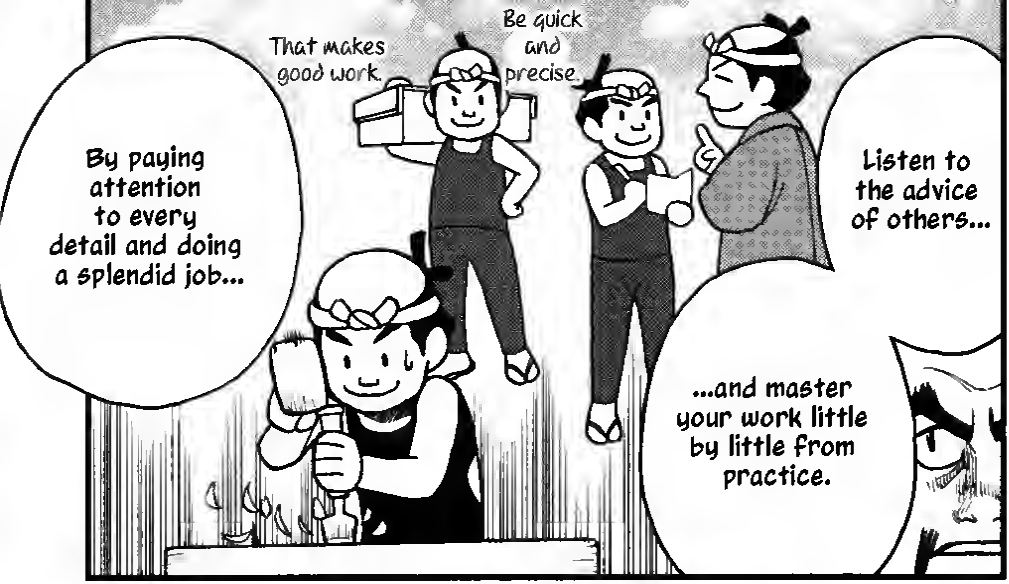

DOOR
ENTRANCEWAY
LINTEL
THRESHOLD
...is used for various purposes.
Weak timber of fine appearance...

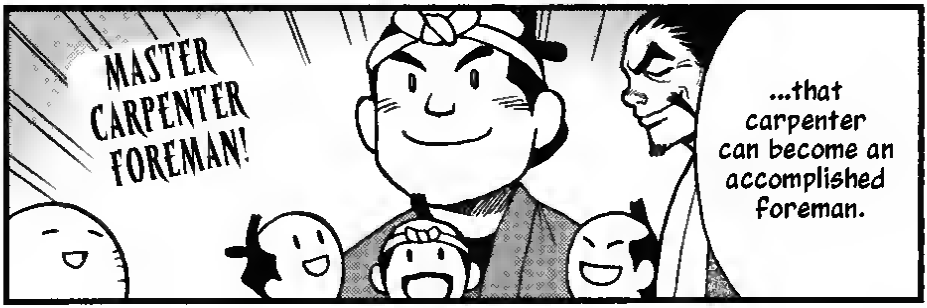
This is the carpenter's division of wood.
Even the weak, bent and damaged wood has its uses.
As firewood or scaffolding
Gnarled and knotted, but strong, timber...
...is used to strengthen the house's support.

Using this analogy, supervisors must be able...
...to efficiently maximize their subordinates' abilities.
Effective use of raw materials builds a long-lasting house.
Really!
Other things supervisors must endeavor to do are...
• Skillfully raise job efficiency.
• Never be lax and neglect the work.
• Ascertain the energy and spirit of his subordinates.
• Possess ambition and aspirations.*
• Be aware of what's impossible.
Musashi will explain the rest.
*Enthusiasm to move forward.
There are many more examples of strategy in a carpenter's work.
Such as...?
Thank you.

That is not all.
SHING
Chisel
Plane
Even a common carpenter employs strategy.
They are extremely familiar with their tools.
You can tell which tools they carry from their clothes.
Maintenance...
0

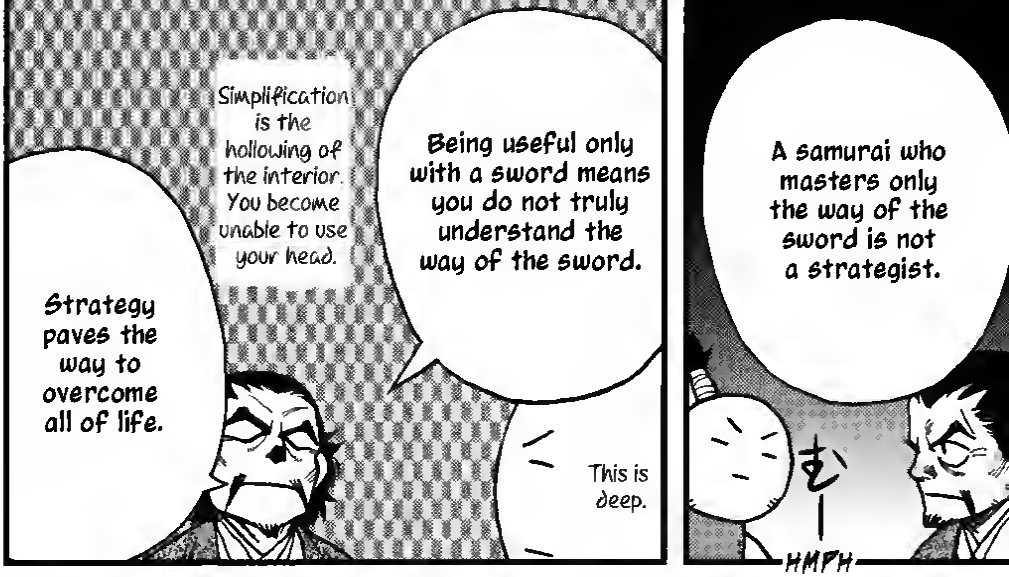
SKRITCH
Planing wood is important, but it is meaningless to just polish the surface.
To ensure nothing becomes distorted...
One must prevent distortion from occurring.
PROCEED TO THE NEXT STEP WITHOUT NEGLECTING SELF-CHECKS.
...carpenters make sure to measure and fit everything precisely.
I agree.
It is important to bear this in mind.
FIRMLY FIXED


That makes good work.
Be quick and precise.
By paying attention to every detail and doing a splendid job...
Listen to the advice of others...
...and master your work little by little from practice.


MASTER CARPENTER FOREMAN!
...that carpenter can become an accomplished foreman.

THE WAY IS CONNECTED TO EVERY-WHERE.
The way of strategy can be applied...
...to a wide range of matters.

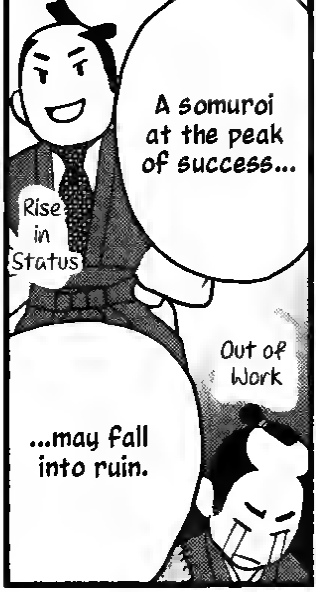
A MEANS OF TURNING SOMETHING TO ONE'S ADVANTAGE.
Since ancient times, strategy has meant ***usefulness***.
Strategy is not limited to sword techniques or martial arts.
All forms of discipline lead toward success.


Simplification is the hollowing of the interior. You become unable to use your head.
Being useful only with a sword means you do not truly understand the way of the sword.
Strategy paves the way to overcome all of life.
This is deep.
A samurai who masters only the way of the sword is not a strategist.
む—
HMPH

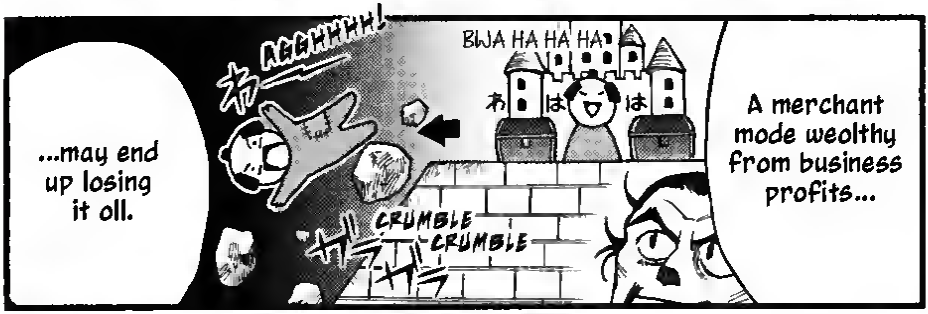
TIMING
Timing serves as the foundation for attaining victory.
Which brings us....
...to the concept of *timing*.

SPIRIT - CHANCE - RHYTHM
It involves spirit, chance, and rhythm.
Spirit, huh?
Timing in strategy cannot be mastered without a great deal of practice.
し—

When you hear spirit, irrational things may come to mind.
However, that is not so.
The spirit of strategy?
FLOAT
Like the Force?
Wrong!
Vital signs
Spirit involves breathing, pulse rate, and blood pressure.
Spirit and energy.
Preparedness, to maintain a constant rhythm of the body.
In the way of strategy, timing cannot be distorted.
Also...
Occasions as well
Chance refers to signs and opportunities.
In other words, chance and timing.

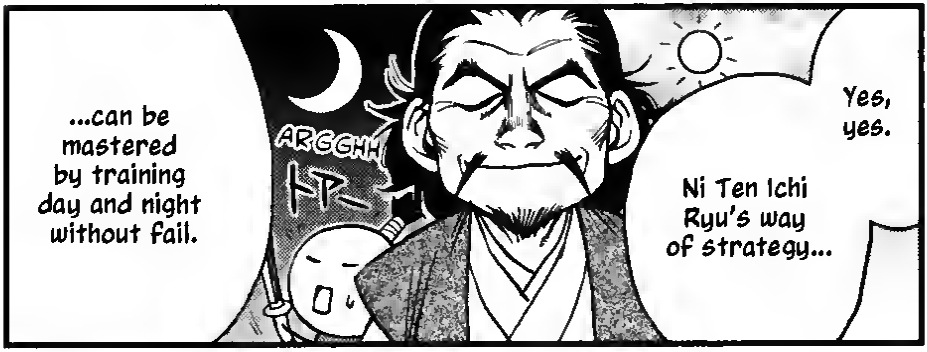

A somuroi at the peak of success...
Rise in Status
...may fall into ruin.
Out of Work

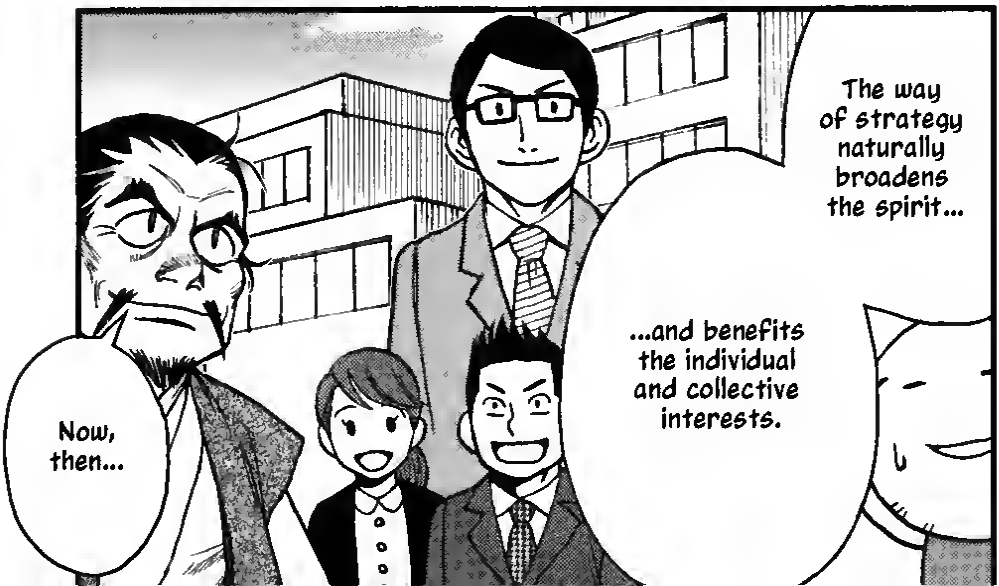
There is timing in everything.
RISE
FALL
FLOW
You should fomiliorize yourself with its rhythm.


A merchant mode weolthy from business profits...
BWA HA HA HA!
あ は は は
AGGHHHH!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
...may end up losing it oll.

There are oll types of timing.
If you con grosp timing ond find the way to take odvontoge of your own life...
READ THE TIMES.
...success will be yours.

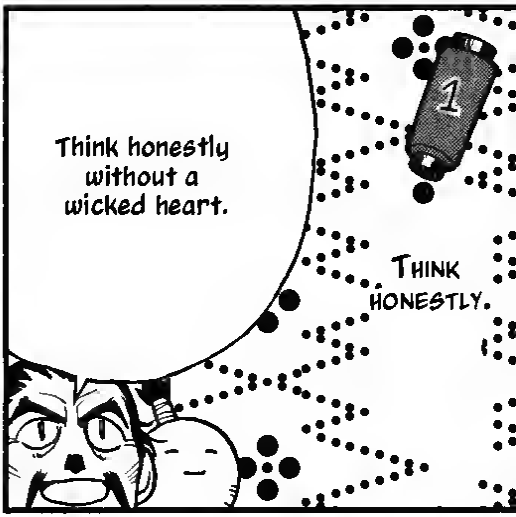
When in a battle, disturb the opponent's timing...
...by unexpectedly taking the initiative.
YOU MUST FIRST GRASP THE TIMING BEFORE GOING INTO ACTION.
This is the way to victory through strategy.

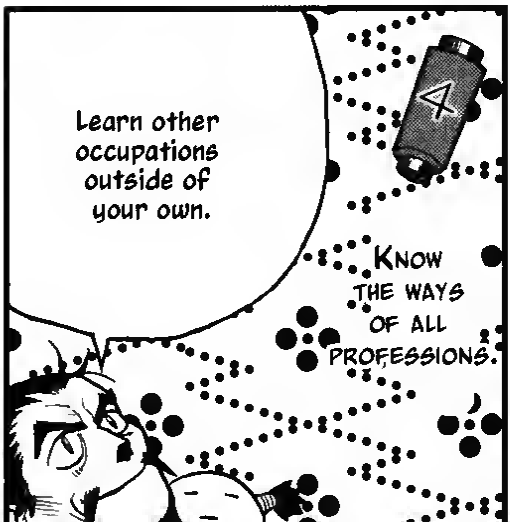

Yes, yes.
Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's way of strategy...
ARGGHH
...can be mastered by training day and night without fail.

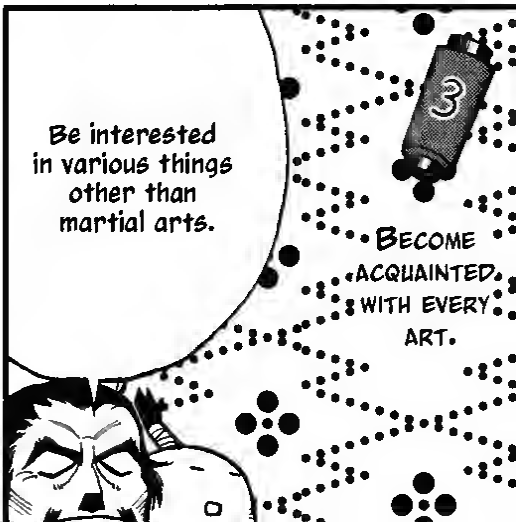

The way of strategy naturally broadens the spirit...
...and benefits the individual and collective interests.
Now, then...

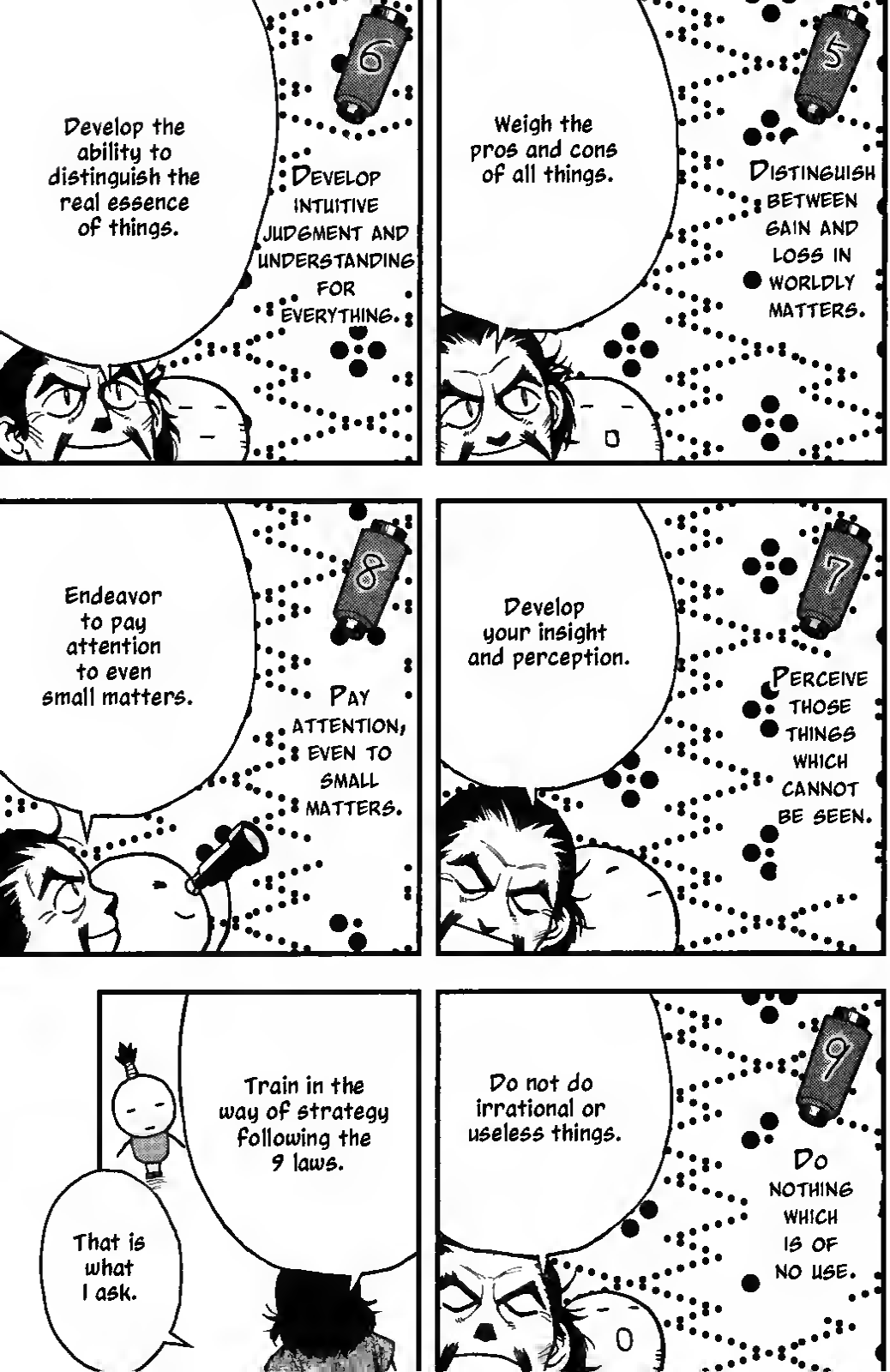
LAW
Those interested in learning the way of strategy...
...must know the 9 laws to training.

2
Don't just study strategy, but put it into practice.
TRAIN IN THE WAY OF STRATEGY.


1
Think honestly without a wicked heart.
THINK HONESTLY.


4
Learn other occupations outside of your own.
KNOW THE WAYS OF ALL PROFESSIONS.


3
Be interested in various things other than martial arts.
BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH EVERY ART.


Develop the ability to distinguish the real essence of things.
6
Develop intuitive judgment and understanding for everything.
Weigh the pros and cons of all things.
5
Distinguish between gain and loss in worldly matters.
Endeavor to pay attention to even small matters.
8
Pay attention, even to small matters.
Develop your insight and perception.
7
Perceive those things which cannot be seen.
Train in the way of strategy following the 9 laws.
That is what I ask.
Do not do irrational or useless things.
9
Do nothing which is of no use.

Utilize the 9 laws and train in the way of strategy.
If you do not look at things on a large scale...
...it will be difficult for you to master strategy.

Above all else, you must harden your willpower to master strategy.
Determination is vital.

Train your whole body to move at will.
If you train the mind, you can win with spirit.
The body over the person.
In other words...
OOHHH!

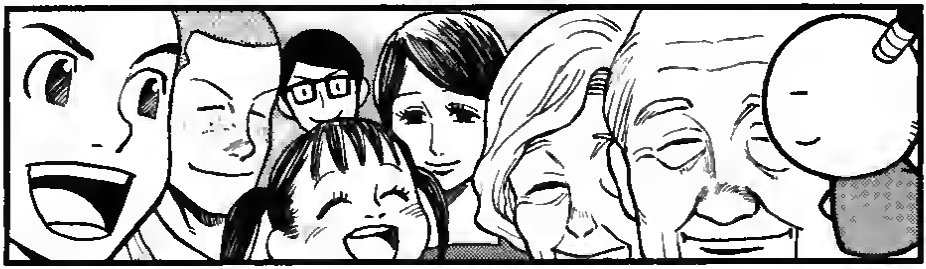
...defeat the opponent with your own skill.
FLUSTERED
あわわ
OPPONENT
Even without attacking, you can win with your perceptive eyes.
Mind, skill, and body before all else.
If your state of mind can stand unsurpassed...
...won't it mean that you are invincible?

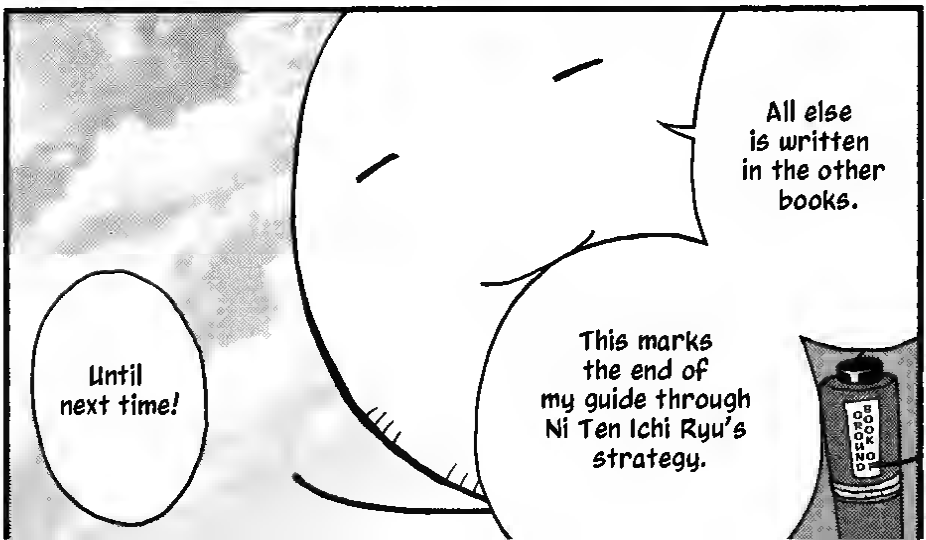
THE WAY OF PROFESSION
That's right. Even now, people seek to rise above others.
Everyone trains in self-discipline in order to raise their status.
They walk the way of strategy.

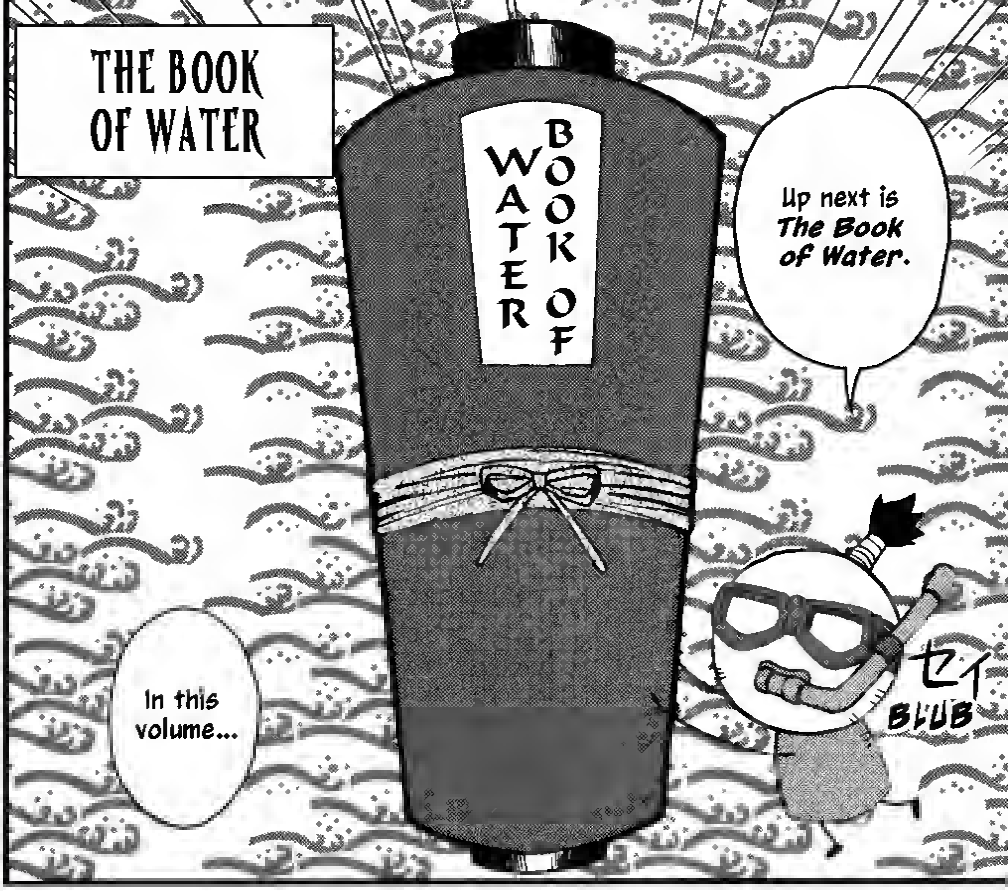
MOBILIZATION TO VICTORY
...capable people will follow you as your subordinates.
Efficiently manage those subordinates...

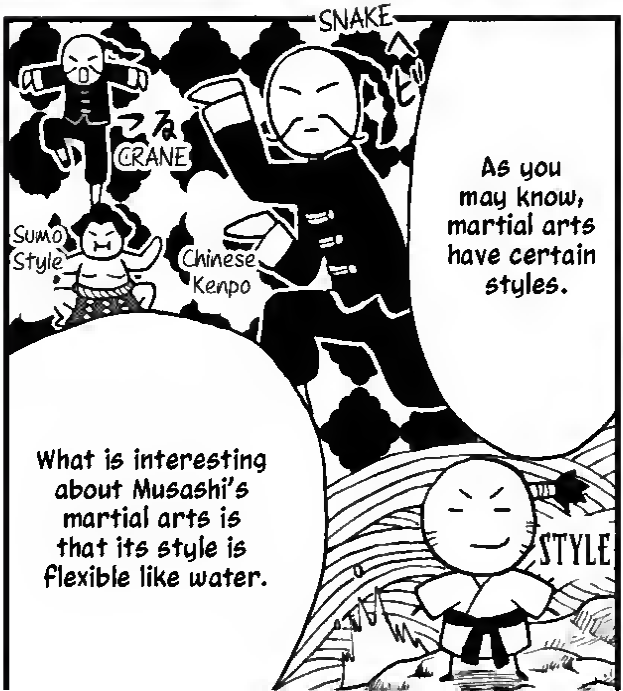
If you stand in society as a strategist...

...and heal the country and its people.
Hold yourself correctly.
Give the people rest and maintain order in the world.




All else is written in the other books.
This marks the end of my guide through Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's strategy.
GODSEND
BOOK
Until next time!


THE BOOK OF WATER
BOOK OF WATER
Up next is The Book of Water.
In this volume...
セイ
BLUB

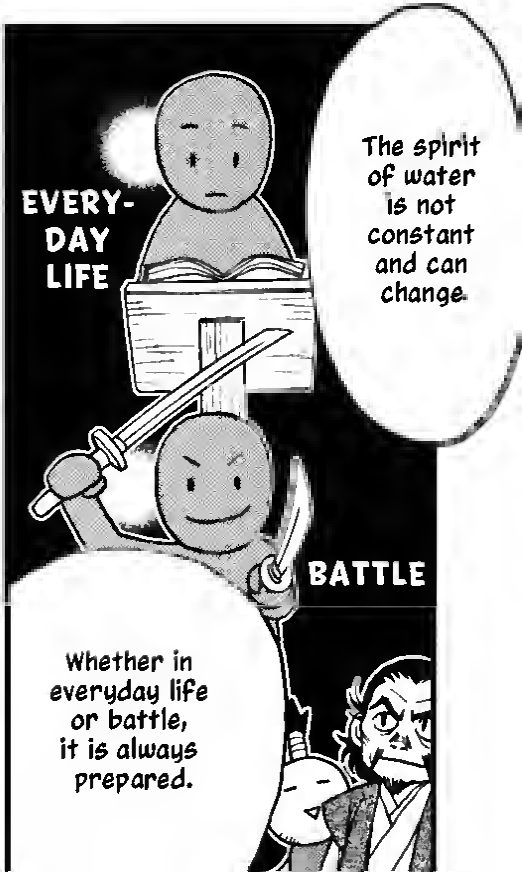

SNAKE
CRANE
Sumo Style
Chinese Kenpo
STYLE
As you may know, martial arts have certain styles.
What is interesting about Musashi's martial arts is that its style is flexible like water.

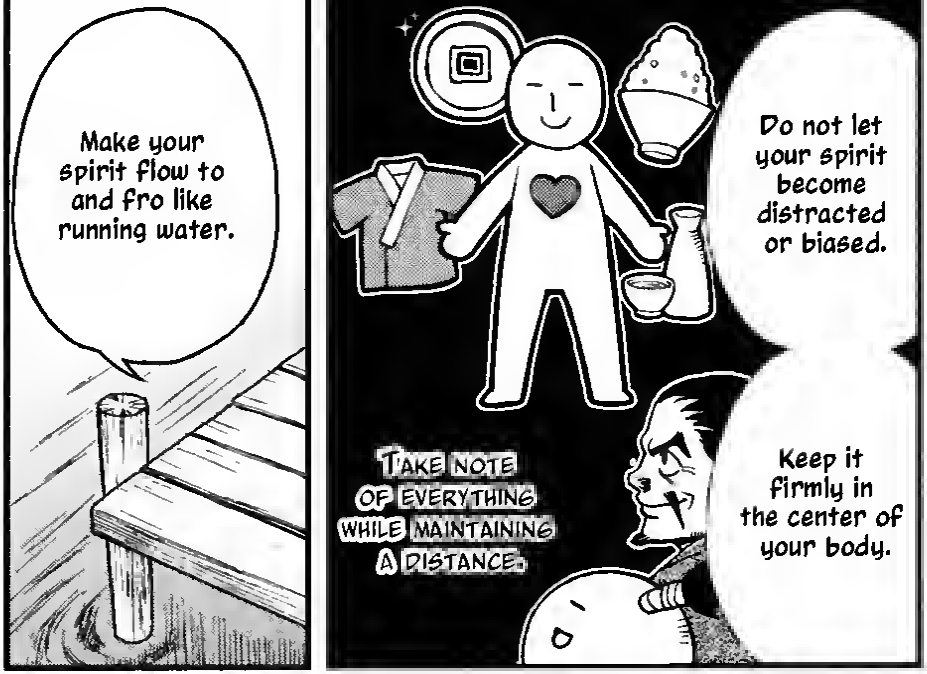
...I will guide you through Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's basic fighting style.
It combines both spiritual and physical aspects.

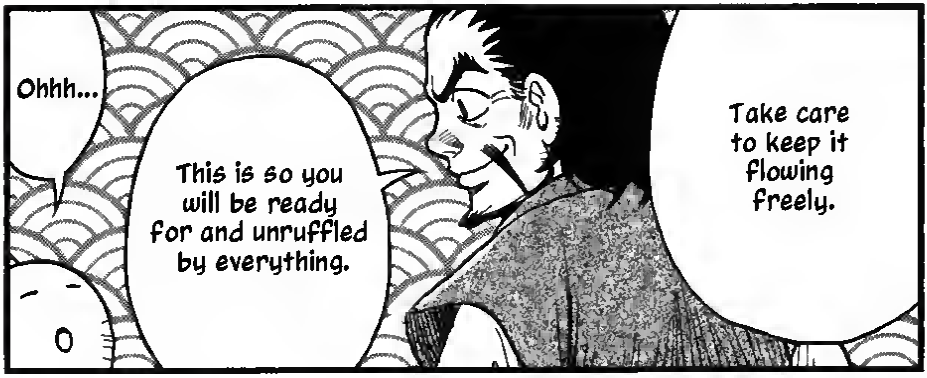
In The Book of Water...
SPIRIT OF WATER
...Musashi stoted thot one must train their spirit to be flexible like woter.
Water changes to conform to the boundories which contain it.
THE FORM CHANGES, BUT THE CONTENTS REMAIN THE SAME.
Starting from a single drop...
...woter con accumulate to form on oceon.
Its cleor, blue color...
...con be compared to the spirit of strotegy.
SLIP
Exactly.

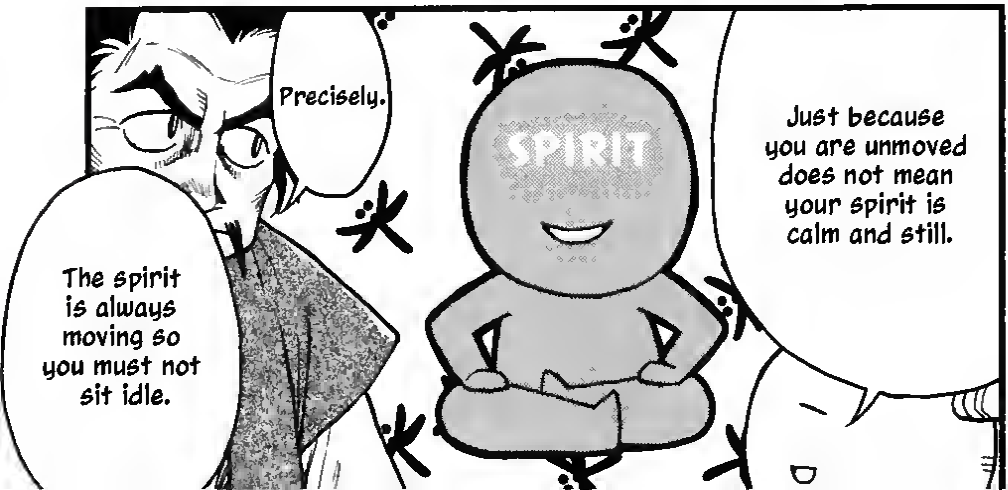
FWIP
Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's strategy gets its advantage by imitating water.
The spirit of water is reflected well in my ways of the sword.

Broaden your spirit.
Face each situation without being tense or reckless.

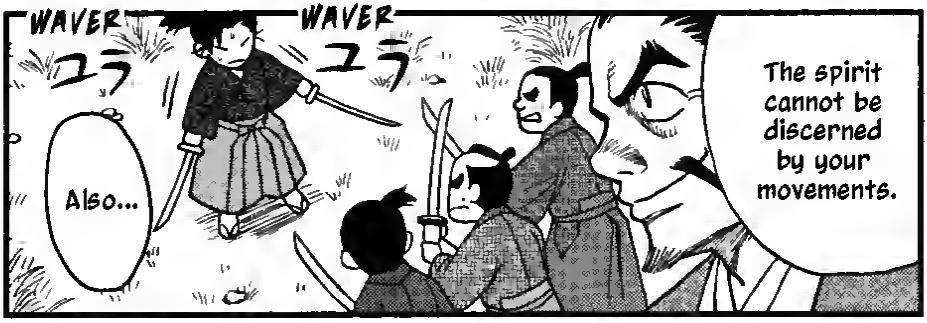

EVERY-DAY LIFE
The spirit of water is not constant and can change.
BATTLE
Whether in everyday life or battle, it is always prepared.


Make your spirit flow to and fro like running water.
Do not let your spirit become distracted or biased.
Keep it firmly in the center of your body.
TAKE NOTE OF EVERYTHING WHILE MAINTAINING A DISTANCE.


Ohhh...
This is so you will be ready for and unruffled by everything.
Take care to keep it flowing freely.


Precisely.
SPIRIT
Just because you are unmoved does not mean your spirit is calm and still.
The spirit is always moving so you must not sit idle.

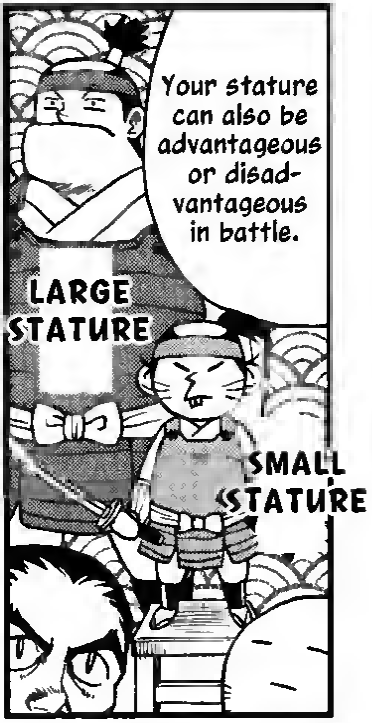
When moving quietly, the spirit is restless and alert.
When moving violently, the spirit is calm and tranquil.


WAVER
ユラ
WAVER
ユラ
Also...
The spirit cannot be discerned by your movements.

HUMBLE
CALM
Be neither insufficiently spirited nor overly spirited.
Indeed.
...
Don't guard against the opponent's movements.
Maintain vigilance to keep your spirit from conspiring against you.

GENTLE BUT FIRM
A strategist hides his true spirit from everyone.
Though you may seem unreliable at a glance, your spirit is strong.

Small people, know the movements of large people.
IF I CAN JUST GET ONE BLOW IN...
HE'S STRONG WITH A WIDE REACH. GO FOR THE HEART!
Large people, know the reactions of small people.

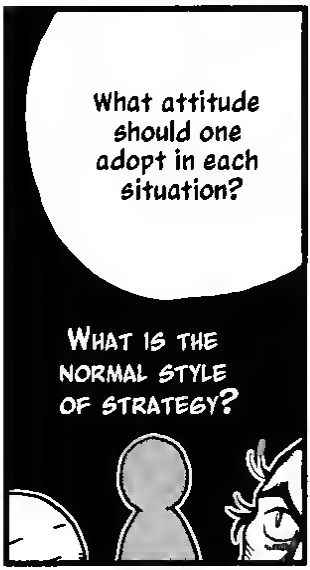

Your stature can also be advantageous or disadvantageous in battle.
LARGE STATURE
SMALL STATURE

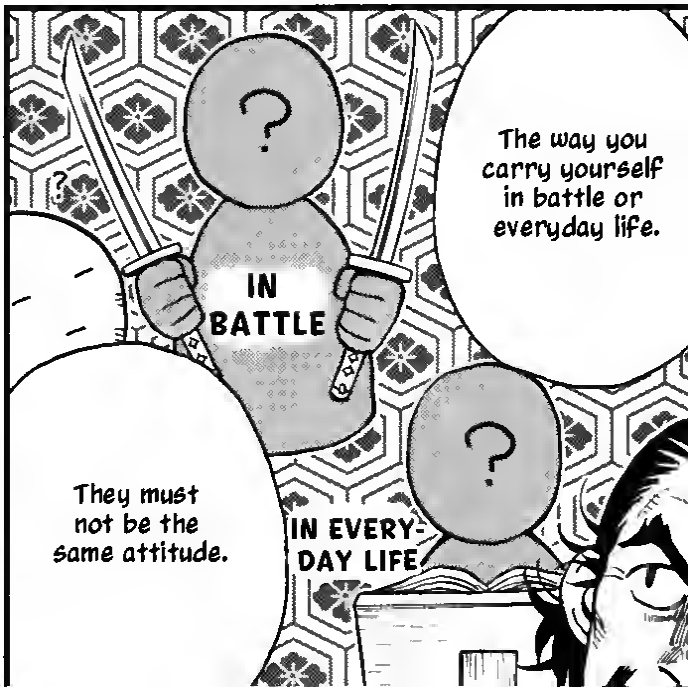
...and maintain an unbiased spirit.
Huh?
Don't overestimate your own advantage...

OOPS
アウチ
Do not stumble over something trivial.
EXTRAVAGANCE
You must cultivate your wisdom and spirit.

Keep your spirit pure and open. Don't be swayed by what is in front of you.
Look at things from a higher point of view.

Appear-ance?
Let's not forget your appearance.


What attitude should one adopt in each situation?
WHAT IS THE NORMAL STYLE OF STRATEGY?


IN BATTLE
IN EVERY-DAY LIFE
The way you carry yourself in battle or everyday life.
They must not be the same attitude.

The head does not hang down or look up.
You must perceive your surroundings without moving your eyes.
Slightly narrow your eyes without furrowing your brow or blinking.
Keep the line of your nose straight and slightly jut out your lower jaw.
Hold the line of the back of your neck straight.
Think of everything below your shoulders as one entity.
Straighten your back without your buttocks jutting out.
Put strength into your legs, from the knees to the tips of your toes. Brace your abdomen, so you do not bend at the hips.
So detailed...

STRIDE
STRIDE
ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR WAR.
It is necessary to make your combat stance your everyday stance...
DASH
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH
.....
...and make your everyday stance your combat stance.
Your presence of mind is formed in this way.
HMMM
A strategist is always cautious.
AHH
There's no opening!
Eep!
It is difficult to be prepared for anything...
...and put all of your power into battle.
Yeah!
You must research this well.
This strategy can be applied to any way.

During battle, a gaze should be large and broad.
That gaze is also twofold.
Search!
GAZE
Your gaze is also an important element of strategy.
WHOA
...and the other, perception.
One is sight...
PERCEPTION
Perception sees what is hidden.
It sees through the opponent's heart and nature.
SIGHT
Sight reflects what is before you. It captures the phenomenon.
GRASP SPACE

SIGHT < PERCEPTION
In battle...
...perception is stronger than sight.
SIGHT
PERCEPTION
Sight sees with the naked eye and perception sees with the mind.
HE GOT ME!
STARE
Grasp his *true movements*.
Do not be distracted by insignificant movements.
Know your enemy's sword.
This is the most important use of the strategic gaze.
HMM
Do not neglect training your gaze and spirit.
...or large-scale battles.
The gaze is the same for individual combat...

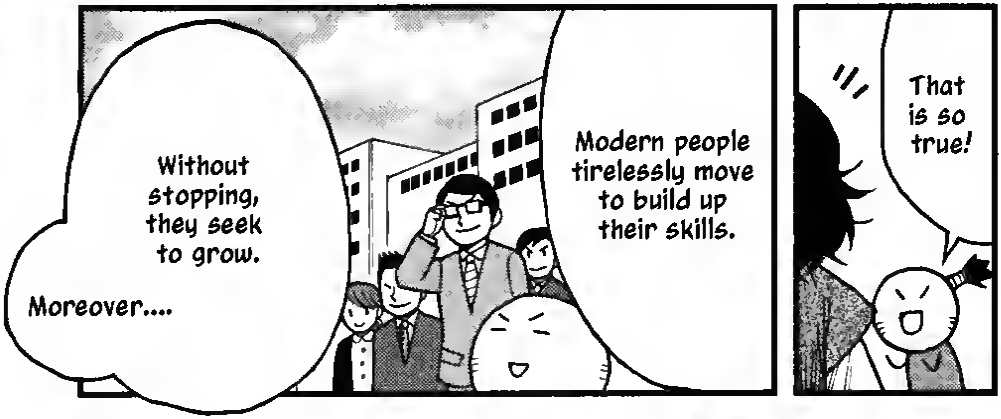
HAND
All right.
I shall now teach you Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's sword-holding techniques.
The spirit of water is also incorporated.
Ways to Hold a Long Sword
1: Grip the hilt with a rather floating feeling in your thumb and forefinger.
2: The middle finger is neither tight nor slack.
3: The last two fingers must be tight.
4: It is important to not loosen your grip when attacking.
The way of handling a sword always changes.
When you take up a sword, you must feel intent on cutting the enemy.
Do not use too much power and weaken your movements.

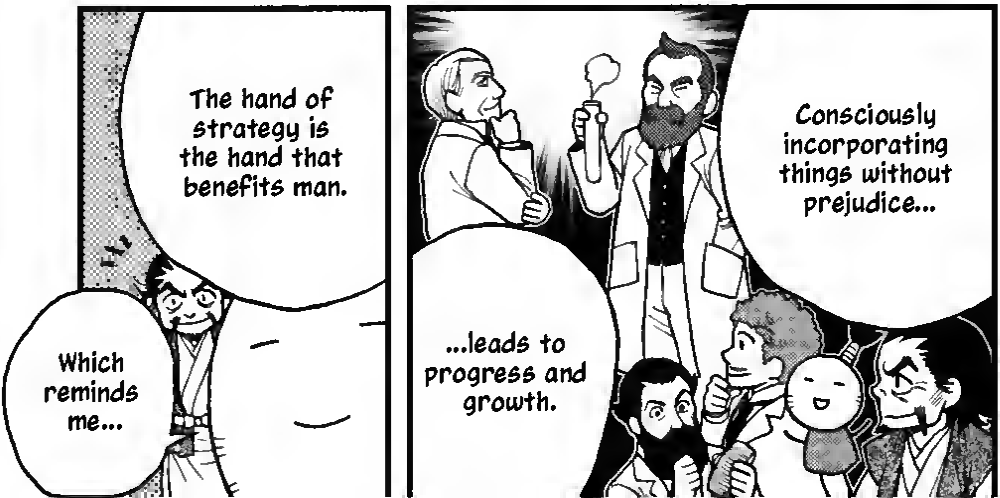
...strongly gripping the hilt of the sword is not a good hand technique.
CLENCH
SLIDE
...when wielding the sword.
You must slightly change the feeling in your thumb and forefinger...

When striking against the enemy's sword...
CLANG
...or warding it off...
...or forcing it down...
BAM

This applies to...
...the long sword's movements and how it is wielded.
Take care not to become fixed with rigidity.

Flexibility means a *living hand*.
Fixedness means a *dead hand*.


Without stopping, they seek to grow.
Moreover....
Modern people tirelessly move to build up their skills.
That is so true!

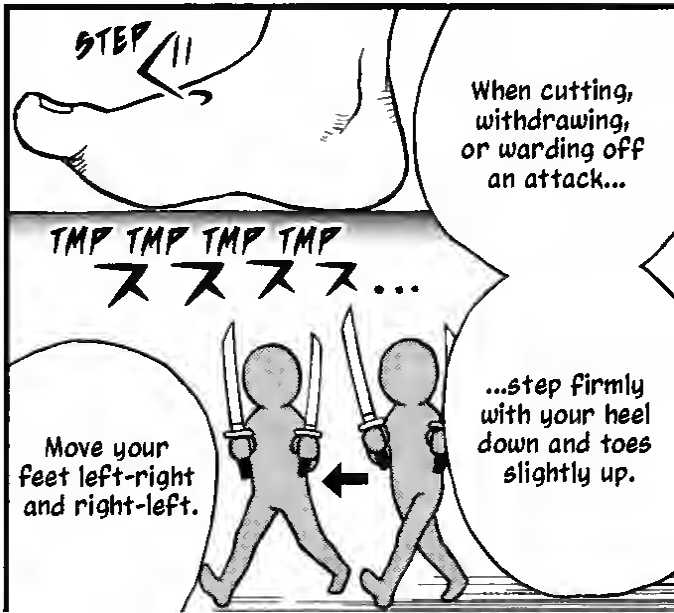

The hand of strategy is the hand that benefits man.
Which reminds me...
Consciously incorporating things without prejudice...
...leads to progress and growth.

Indeed it does.
GAZE
Strategic footwork incorporates the idea of yin and yang.

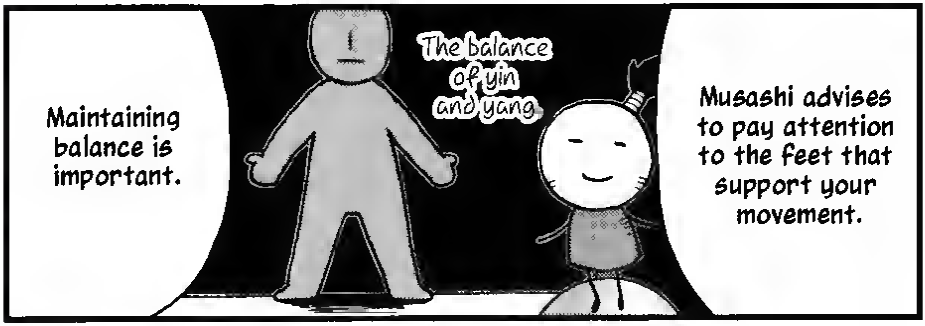
FOOTWORK
Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's strategy...
...also references footwork.
SWISH

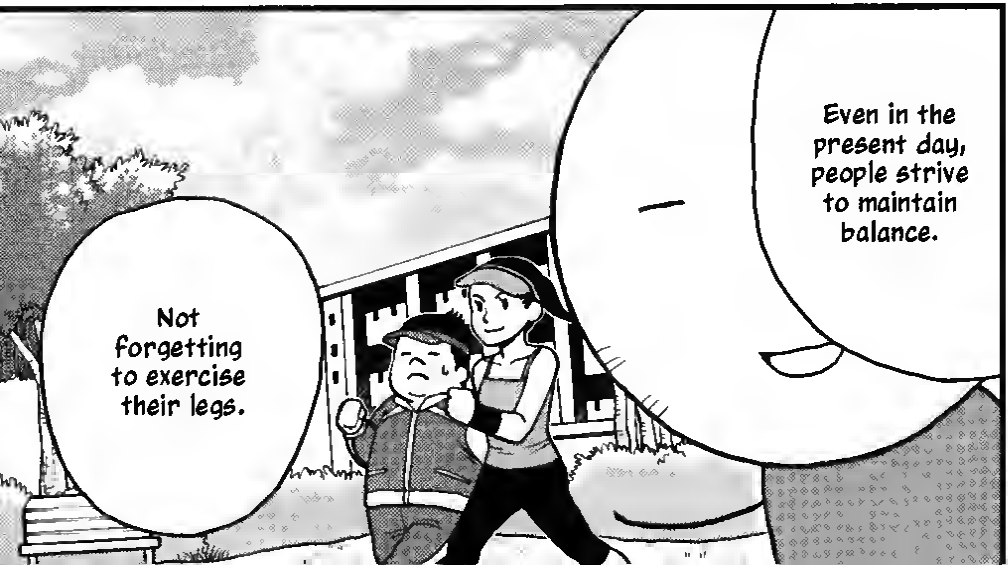
Speaking of footwork...
In a conflict, one cannot exist without the other.
The so-called Yin-Yang Foot.

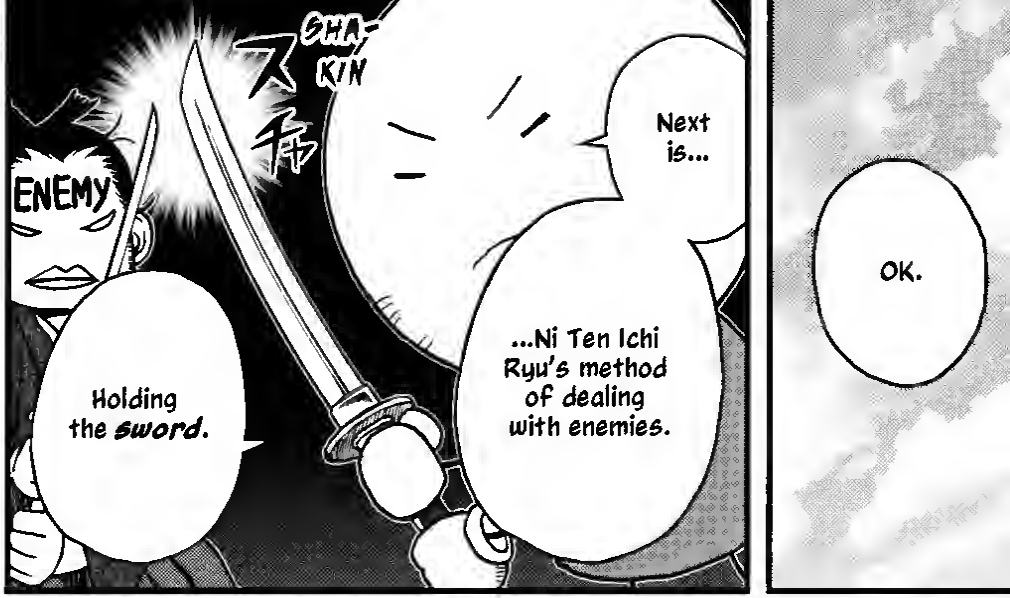
Firmly stepping with the entire sole of the foot stops movement.
HALT
I see.

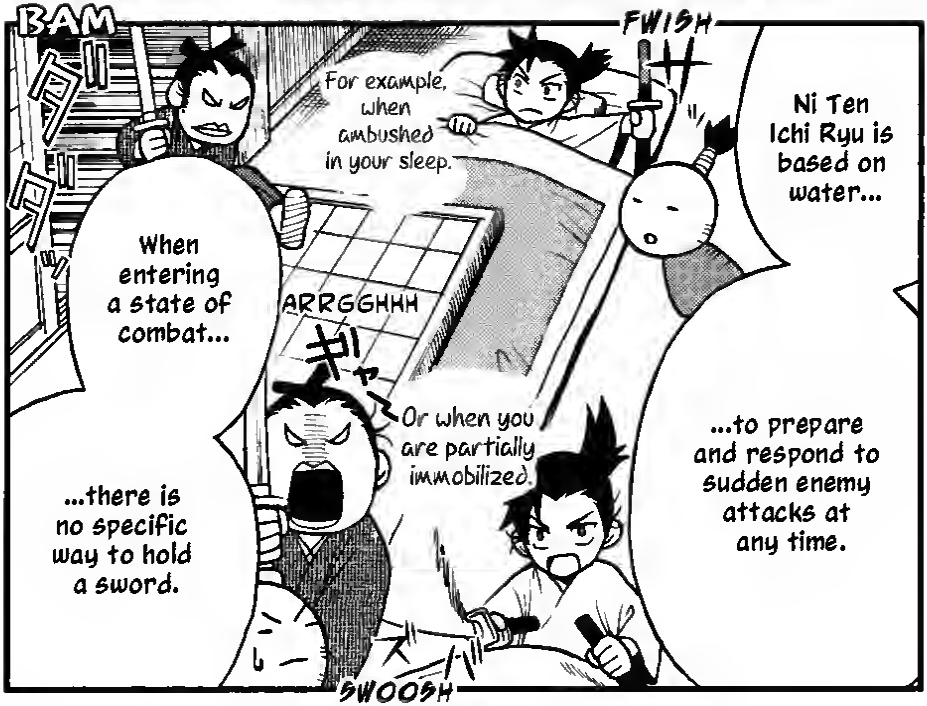

STEP
When cutting, withdrawing, or warding off an attack...
TMP TMP TMP TMP
...step firmly with your heel down and toes slightly up.
Move your feet left-right and right-left.

Use your feet without disrupting your balance.
This allows you to attack or defend immediately against all enemy movements.
ARGGHH
Jumping can also easily disrupt your body's balance.
I see, I see.


Maintaining balance is important.
The balance of yin and yang
Musashi advises to pay attention to the feet that support your movement.

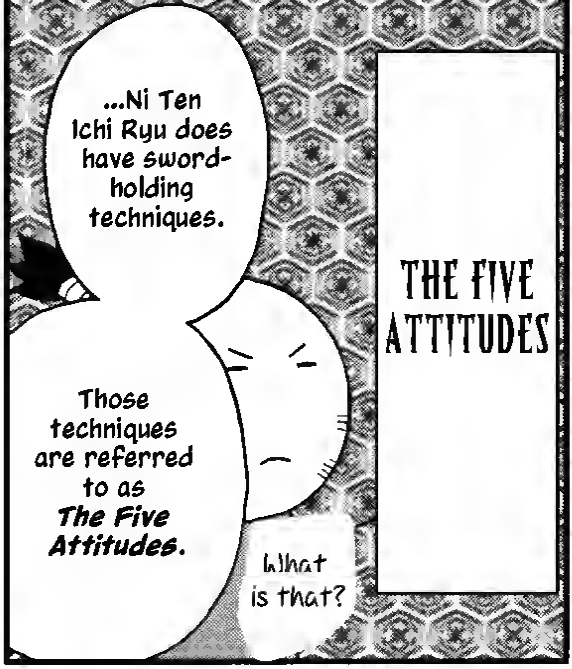

Even in the present day, people strive to maintain balance.
Not forgetting to exercise their legs.

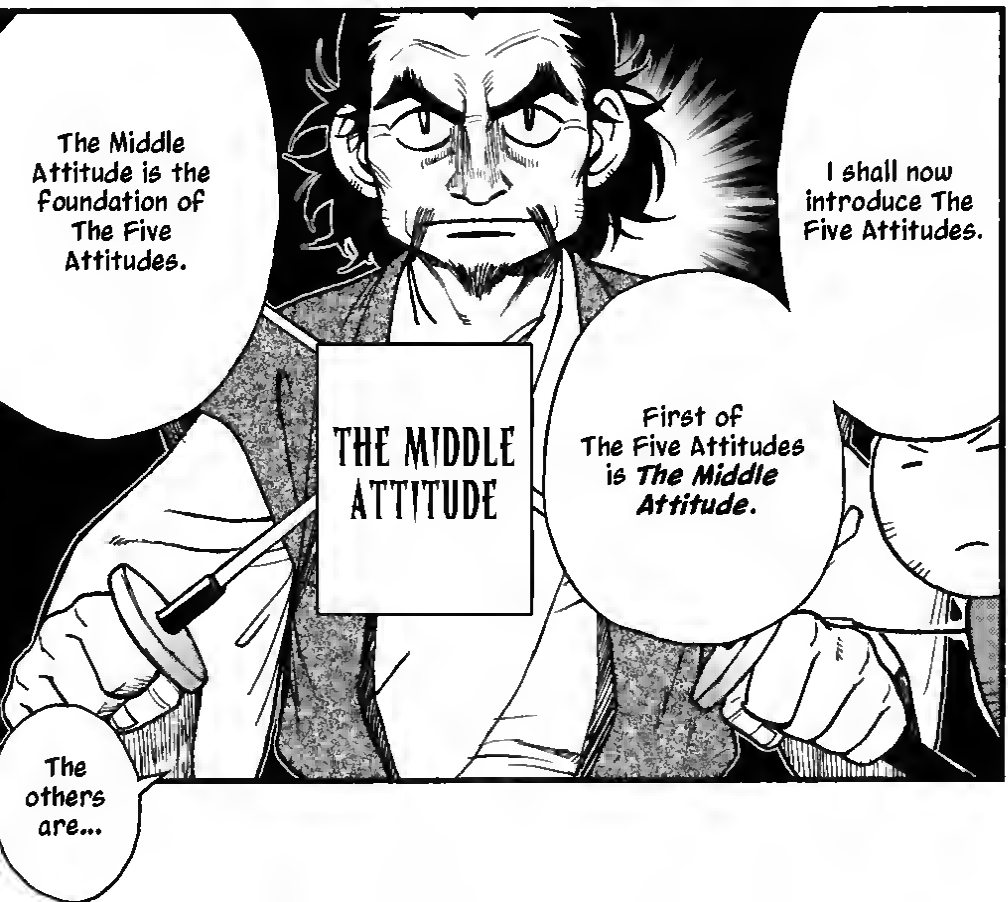

SHA-KIN
ENEMY
Next is...
...Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's method of dealing with enemies.
Holding the sword.
OK.


BAM
FWISH
For example, when ambushed in your sleep.
Ni Ten Ichi Ryu is based on water...
When entering a state of combat...
ARRGGHHH
Or when you are partially immobilized.
...there is no specific way to hold a sword.
...to prepare and respond to sudden enemy attacks at any time.
SWOOSH

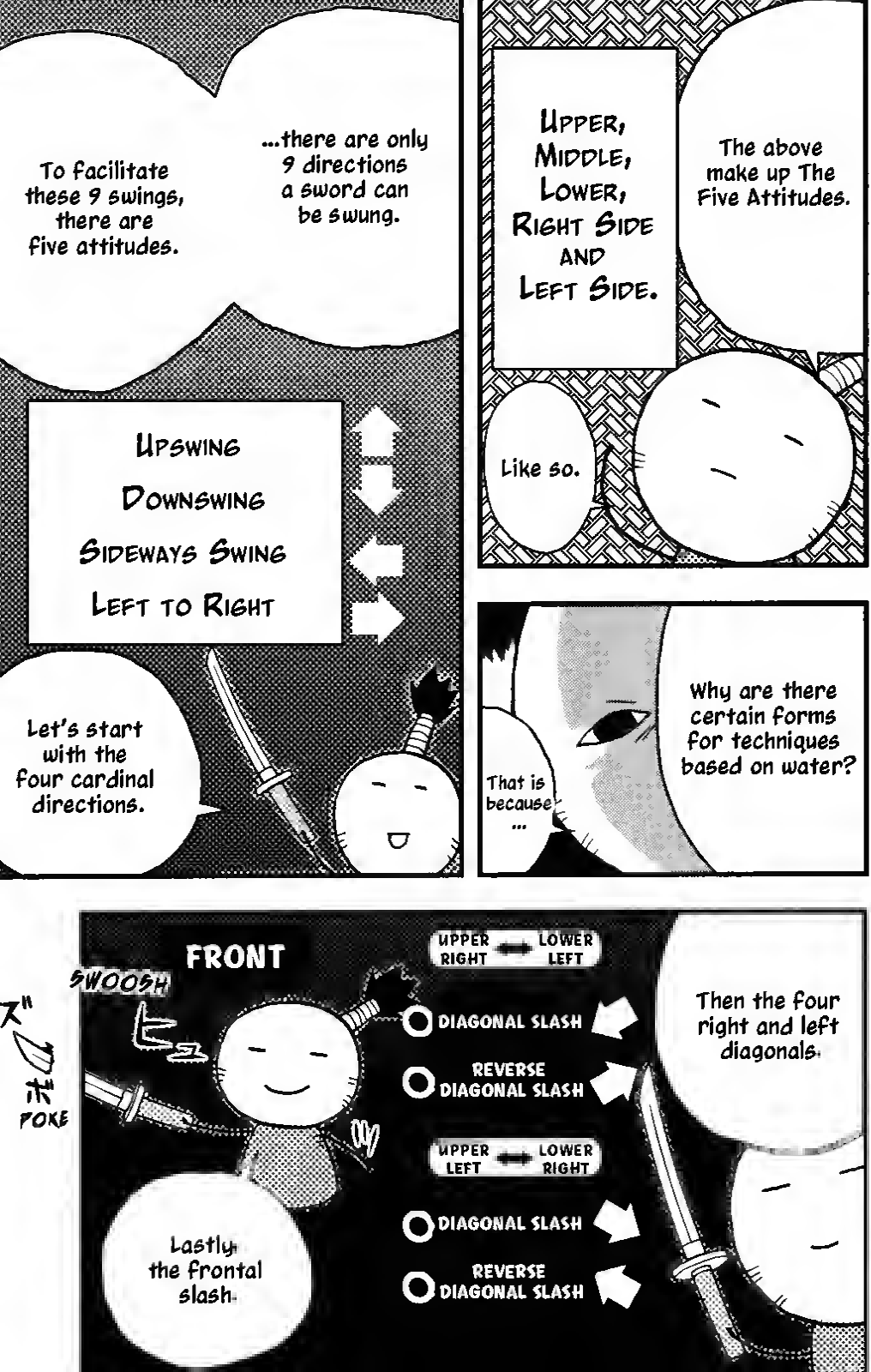
But, in actuality ...
That may appear so at first.
Ni Ten Ichi Ryu has no specific sword-holding technique?

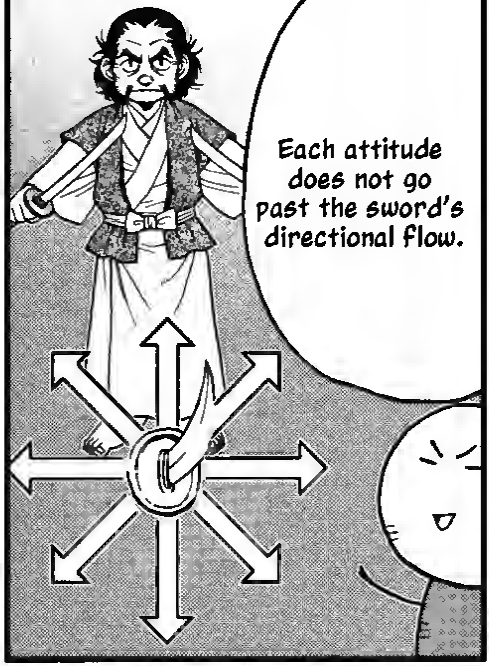
HMPH
Musashi states that nothing outside of these five attitudes exists.
I suppose it is my turn.

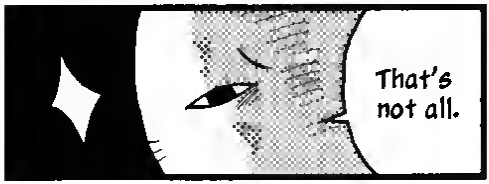

...Ni Ten Ichi Ryu does have sword-holding techniques.
Those techniques are referred to as ***The Five Attitudes***.
What is that?
THE FIVE ATTITUDES

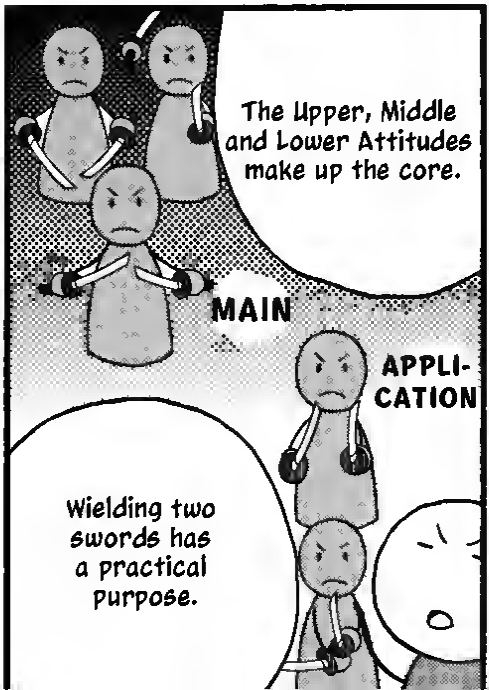

The Middle Attitude is the foundation of The Five Attitudes.
I shall now introduce The Five Attitudes.
THE MIDDLE ATTITUDE
First of The Five Attitudes is ***The Middle Attitude***.
The others are...

LOWER ATTITUDE
Next...
UPPER ATTITUDE
And...
LEFT SIDE ATTITUDE
That makes five.
RIGHT SIDE ATTITUDE
One more.


To facilitate these 9 swings, there are five attitudes.
...there are only 9 directions a sword can be swung.
Upswing
Downswing
Sideways Swing
Left to Right
Let's start with the four cardinal directions.
Upper, Middle, Lower, Right Side and Left Side.
The above make up The Five Attitudes.
Like so.
Why are there certain forms for techniques based on water?
That is because ...
FRONT
SWOOSH
POKE
UPPER RIGHT
LOWER LEFT
DIAGONAL SLASH
REVERSE DIAGONAL SLASH
UPPER LEFT
LOWER RIGHT
DIAGONAL SLASH
REVERSE DIAGONAL SLASH
Then the four right and left diagonals.
Lastly, the frontal slash.


Each attitude does not go past the sword's directional flow.


That's not all.


The Upper, Middle and Lower Attitudes make up the core.
MAIN
APPLI-CATION
Wielding two swords has a practical purpose.

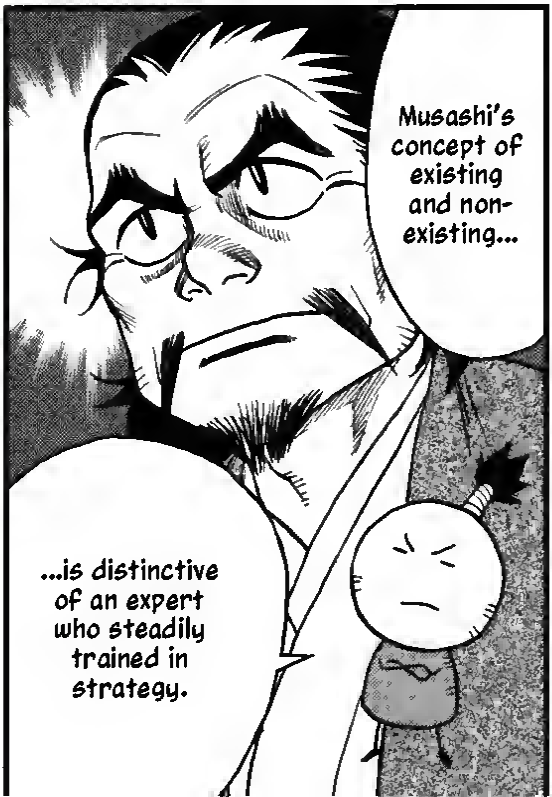
The Five Attitudes are utilized for easy sword wielding.
Upper Attitude
Downswing
Diagonal Swing
Maintain the sword's position.
Lower Attitude
Upswing
Reverse Diagonal Swing
Like that.

ATTITUDE ACCORDING TO THE SITUATION ON YOUR RIGHT OR LEFT.
...means you can wield it from above or to the side.
Also...
The Side Attitudes...
SWISH
AH
This depends on the relationship with the other party.
All these attitudes are applied in The Middle Attitude.
DERIVATION
From The Lower Attitude, you can raise the sword and adopt The Middle Attitude.
From The Upper Attitude you can lower the sword and adopt The Middle Attitude.
If you turn your sword from either Side Attitude toward the center, The Middle Attitude results.

In short...
FLOW FREELY
The Middle Attitude is the foundation.
The secret of this strategy resides in The Middle Attitude.
This also involves the spirit of water.
If you understand the gist of The Middle Attitude...
THE ORIGIN OF THE MOVE-MENT.
...your sword's attitude will coincide with your enemy's attitude.
Let the enemy's attitude guide your situation...
SWISH
Only during actual battle.
...and adopt an attitude to best defeat your enemy.
A fixed form will render you unable to move.
To put it another way...

Your objective is simply to *cut down* the enemy.
Adopt the best stance to defeat the enemy.
That is attitude.
You must train thoroughly to avoid this.
An attitude that prioritizes form over purpose is unnecessary.
I see, I see.
EXISTING AND NON-EXISTING
In fact, Ni Ten Ichi Ryu teaches...
...Attitude and No Attitude!
This is a very rational thought!
FWIP

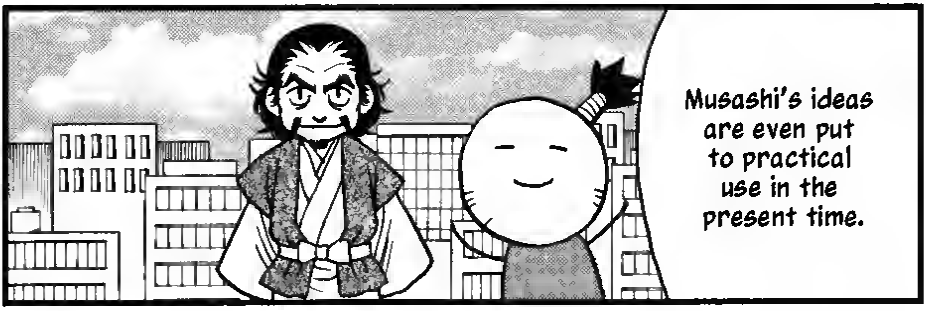
Musashi's Ni Ten Ichi Ryu...
...conveys the basic principles on how to easily cut down your enemy.
The Five Attitudes exist for that purpose.


Musashi's concept of existing and non-existing...
...is distinctive of an expert who steadily trained in strategy.

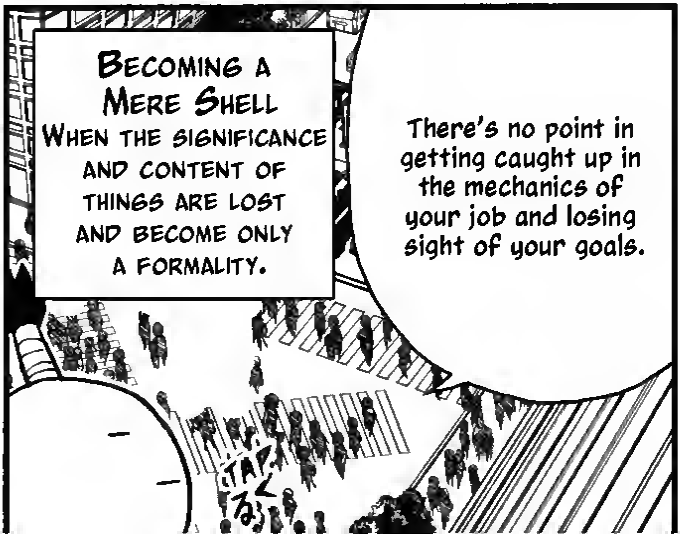
Ni Ten Ichi Ryu does not only teach five sword-holding techniques.
Umm...

Strategy benefits people.
Develop a reasonable strategy...
...and produce *living* skills.

Grasp the foundation.
That's why...
...you must thoroughly study the basics of all things.

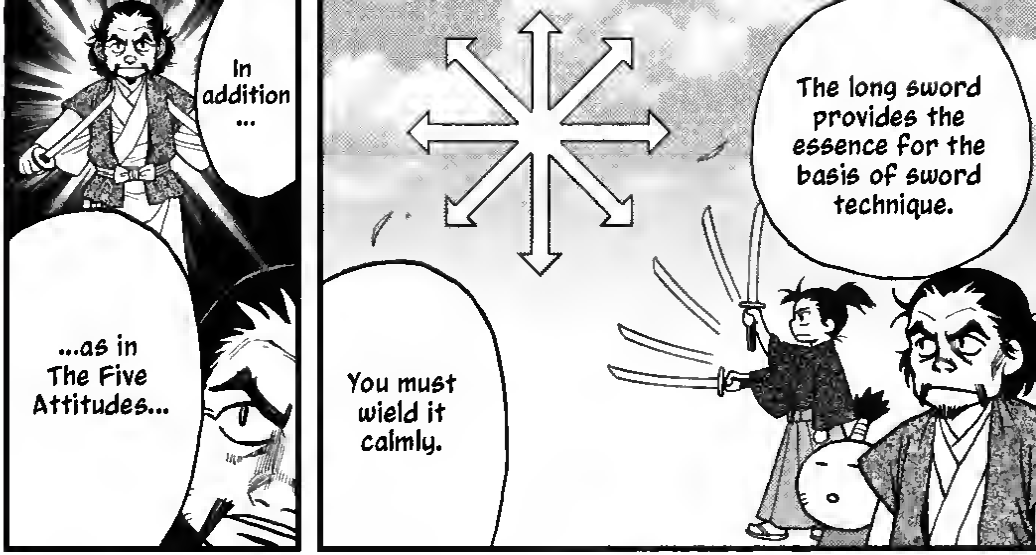

Musashi's ideas are even put to practical use in the present time.

OK.
On to the next part.

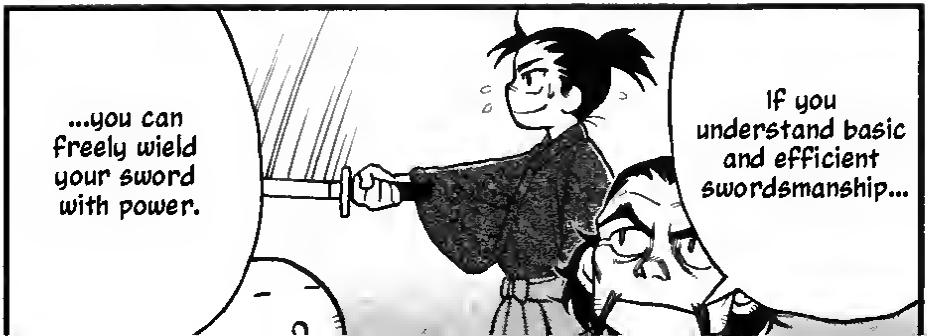

Becoming a Mere Shell
When the significance and content of things are lost and become only a formality.
There's no point in getting caught up in the mechanics of your job and losing sight of your goals.
TAP
TAP

...is how to increase the sword's power.
More than anything, what I pursue in the way of the sword...
UPPER
MIDDLE
LOWER
Even the best sword-swinging stance...
HMPH
There are no tricks.
...incorporates Musashi's rational ideas.
If you understand the way of the sword...
...you can freely wield it with power.
Even if you only use two fingers...
...if you understand how to best wield a sword...
FWOOSH
...you can wield it freely and efficiently.

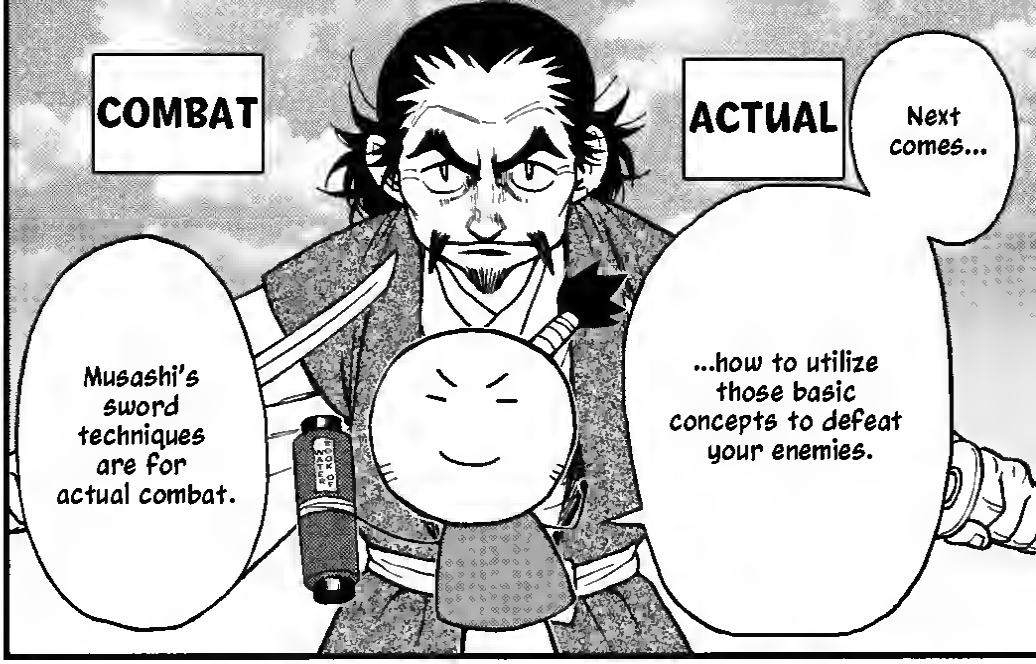
SWISH SWISH SWISH
If you try to wield a sword using only brute strength...
...your movements will become awkward and your swings short.
A sword is not to be wielded with brute force.
Why not?
LIGHT SWINGS
CHOP
If you try to wield it too quickly, like a folding fan or short sword..
...your swings will lose power.
CHOP
Just wielding the sword quickly is called short sword chopping.
Even if you cut the enemy with such swings...
BLOCK
SLASH
...it would not reach the bone.
Above all...
6

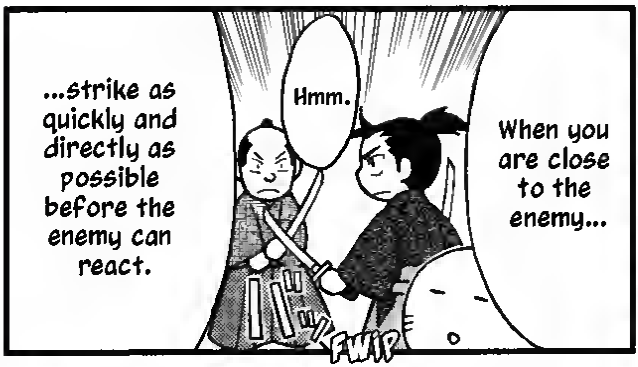

In addition ...
...as in The Five Attitudes...
You must wield it calmly.
The long sword provides the essence for the basis of sword technique.

No matter how you wield it, extend the elbows broadly.
Set your sword on its trajectory with a powerful swing.
...match your sword to the enemy's and be flexible.


...you can freely wield your sword with power.
If you understand basic and efficient swordsmanship...

CUT DOWN THE ENEMY.
If you memorize and apply the basic attitudes and sword techniques of our strategy...
...the way of the long sword will become apparent...
...and your swings will become natural and easy.
I see, I see.
For Musashi, the sword is the way to strategy...
THE WAY
...as well as a tool.
Now then.
Familiarize yourself with the tools you use daily without straining yourself.
Increasing the degree of skill with a tool is important in order to achieve your goal.


COMBAT
ACTUAL
Next comes...
...how to utilize those basic concepts to defeat your enemies.
Musashi's sword techniques are for actual combat.

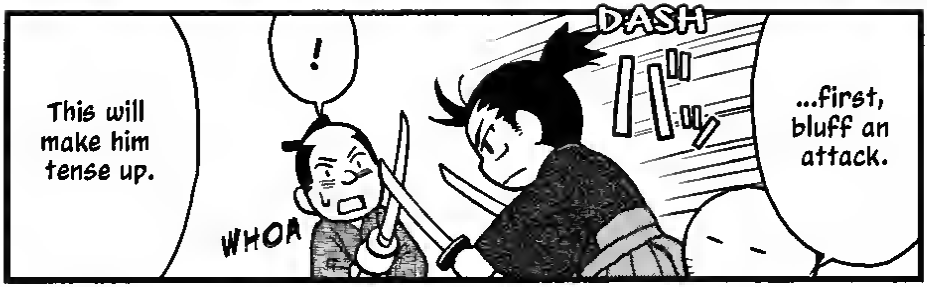

...strike as quickly and directly as possible before the enemy can react.
Hmm.
When you are close to the enemy...
FWIP

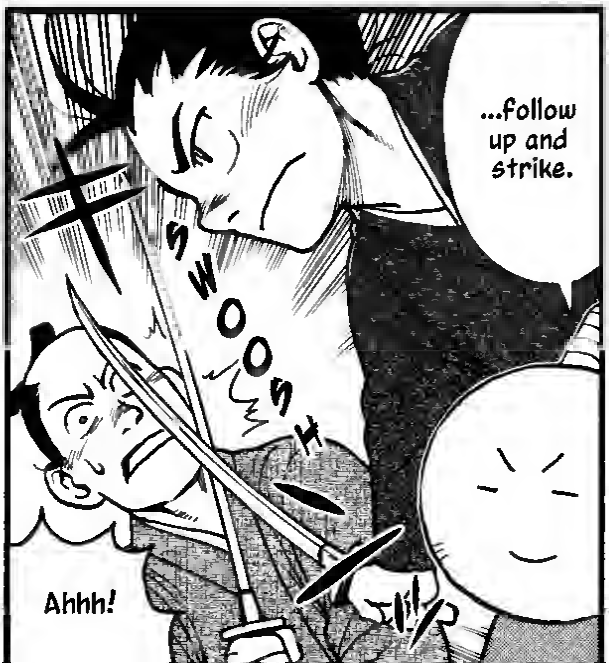
First off...
HITTING THE ENEMY IN ONE TIMING
...Hitting the Enemy in One Timing.

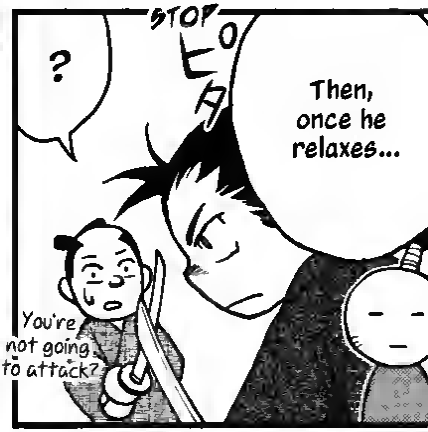
SWOOOSH
Hey!
...strike quickly.
Before the enemy decides to withdraw, break, or hit...

DISCORD
Attack or retreat?
Focus your perception
In order to take the initiative...
...discern the enemy's spirit without moving your body.
The moment you discover he is conflicted, strike quickly and directly.
WHOOSH
Musashi urges you to take the initiative in everything.
INITIATIVE IS IMPORTANT.
You must not be nervous.
Timing and speed is important.
Take the initiative with a calm spirit.
THE EVERYDAY SELF TO THE BATTLE SELF.
RECAP
Huh?
I just need to take the initiative
If you take the initiative only to stop...
...your spirit will be disrupted and exploited by the enemy.
SMIRK
OH, NO!
Some technique

Hmph.
This technique applies to when the enemy strikes first.
I'll strike first.
I'll retreat first.
FWOOSH
In this situation ...
THE ABDOMEN TIMING OF TWO
On to the next technique...
...The Abdomen Timing of Two.


This will make him tense up.
!
WHOA
DASH
...first, bluff an attack.


...follow up and strike.
WOOSH
Ahhh!


?
STOP
Then, once he relaxes...
You're not going to attack?

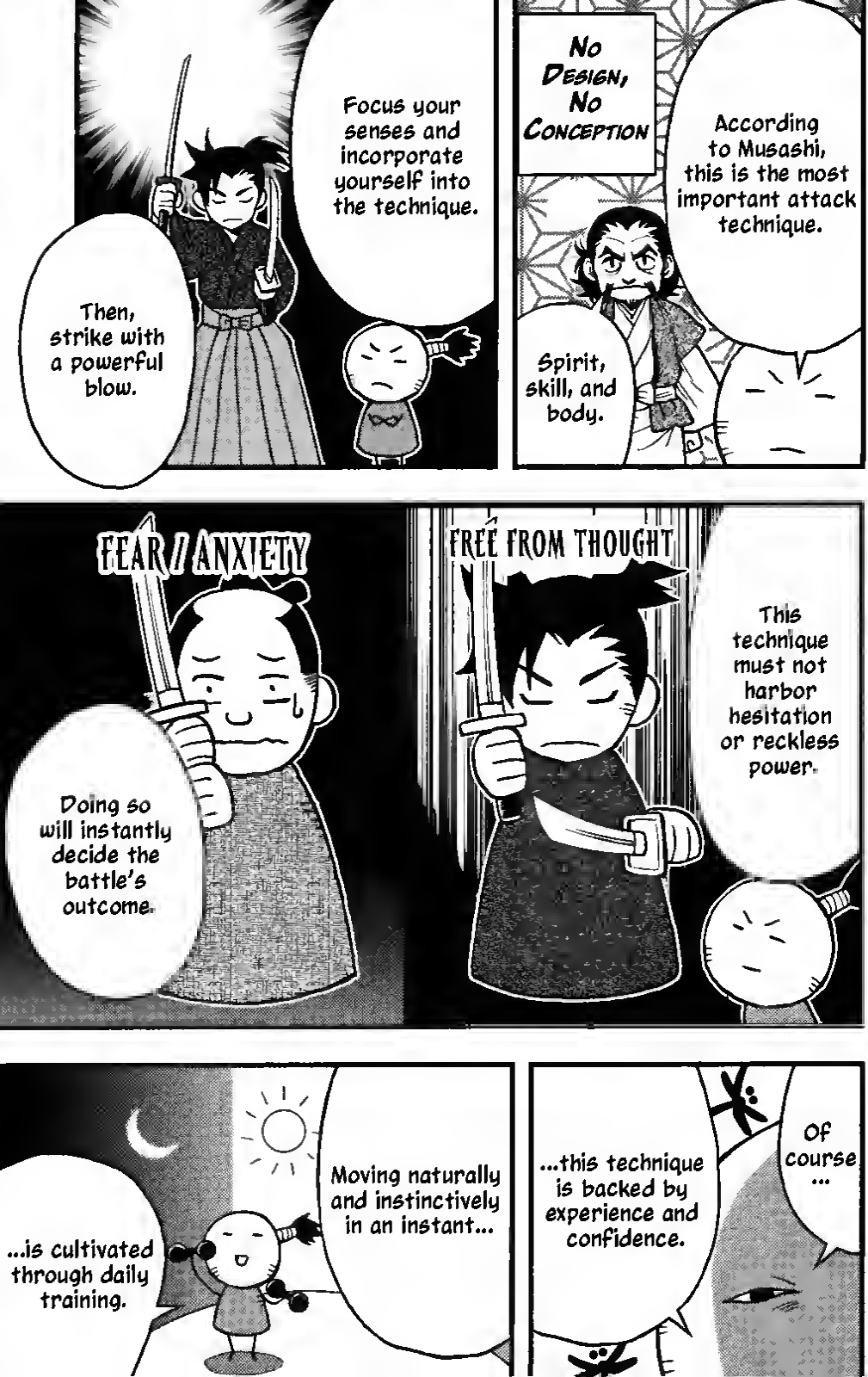
An opening!

SLASH
Strike as the enemy backs away.
This is called a feint.

With timing and rhythm, you can upset the enemy.
Even if a strong enemy takes the initiative...

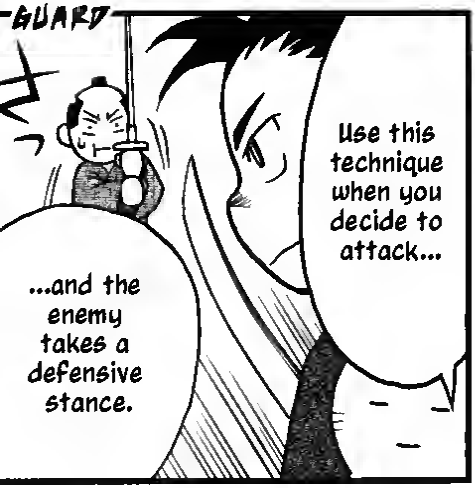
THE BATTLE SELF TO THE EVERYDAY SELF.
...stay calm and a way to win will soon come to you.
Assume an attitude without rushing.
The next technique is...
NO DESIGN, NO CONCEPTION
...No Design, No Conception.

...strike with your body and spirit.
WAH WAH WAH
Strike the opponent instantly.
DASH
This technique is utilized when both parties attack at the same time.
?!
.....
In this situation ...
What now?!
WHAM
Before the enemy can strike...
...you must strike hard.
Instinctively.
SWOOSH

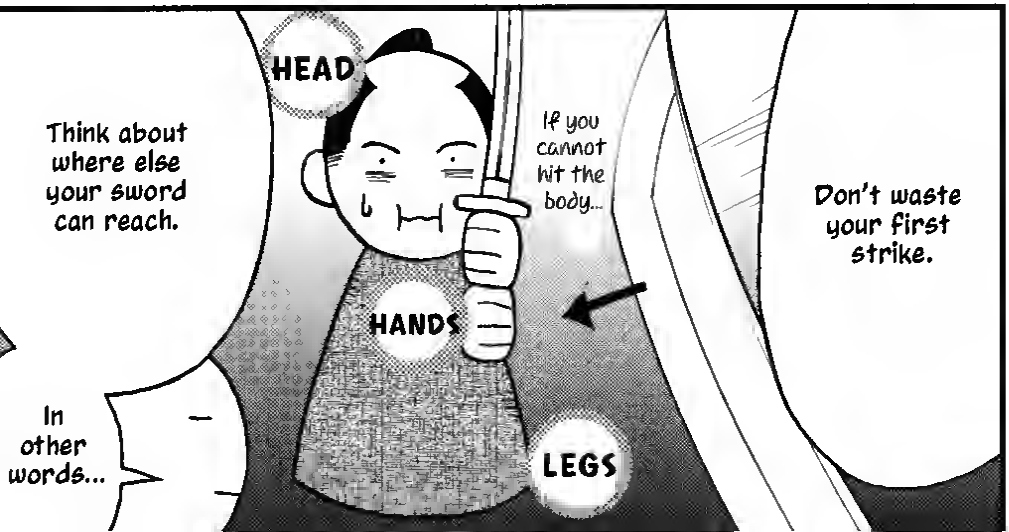

Focus your senses and incorporate yourself into the technique.
Then, strike with a powerful blow.
No Design, No Conception
According to Musashi, this is the most important attack technique.
Spirit, skill, and body.
FEAR / ANXIETY
Doing so will instantly decide the battle's outcome.
FREE FROM THOUGHT
This technique must not harbor hesitation or reckless power.
...is cultivated through daily training.
Moving naturally and instinctively in an instant...
...this technique is backed by experience and confidence.
Of course ...

CLANG
Use this technique when you are struggling blade-to-blade with the enemy.
Next up...
The Flowing Water Cut
...The Flowing Water Cut.
Once it seems the enemy will attempt to attack...
STRIKE, RETREAT, OR THRUST ASIDE.
I'll hold off the enemy before an opportunity arises.
I can't show him any opening.
BAM
Shake up your enemy.
BREATH
...expand your body and spirit...
...and calmly slow down the enemy's timing...
...with big and strong strikes.
Whoa!

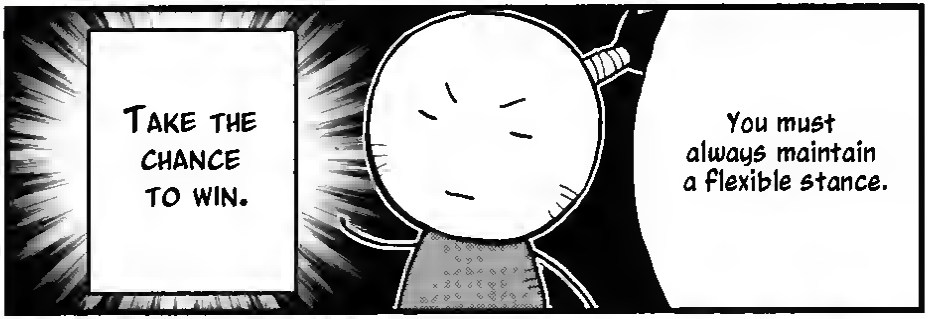
THE CONTINUOUS CUT
Moving on to...
...The Continuous Cut.


GUARD
Use this technique when you decide to attack...
...and the enemy takes a defensive stance.

WAVER
Ugh!
BAM
Do not respond to the enemy, but bring him to your own pace.
WHY YOU!
BAM
FWISH
Upset the enemy's timing and look for a chance to win.
SLICE


HEAD
HANDS
LEGS
Think about where else your sword can reach.
In other words...
If you cannot hit the body...
Don't waste your first strike.

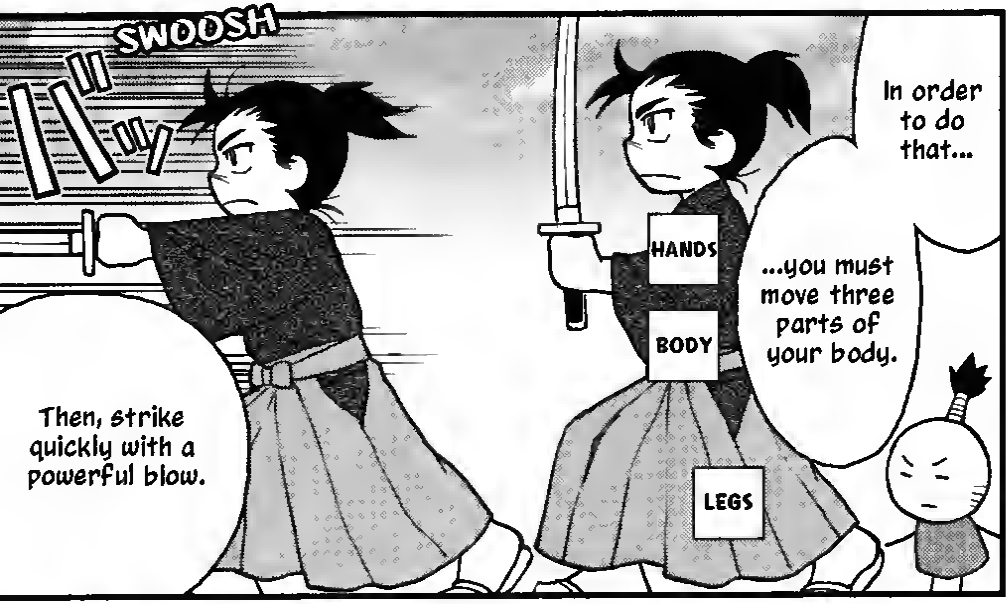
Don't stop with your first strike, but continue to strike other areas.
Even if you miss the first time...
...don't stop.
Instantly choose the next course with the highest possibility of winning.
HEAD
HANDS
LEGS

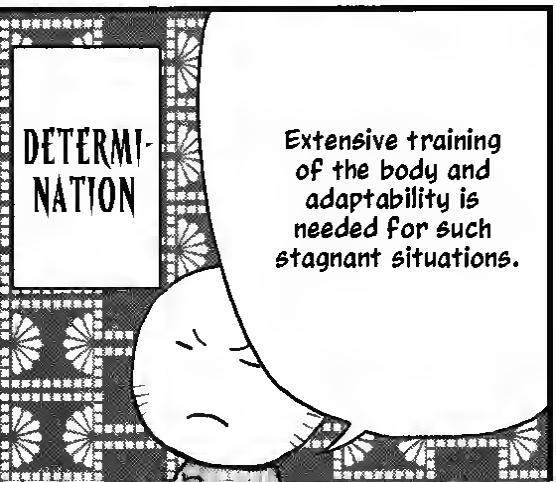

TAKE THE CHANCE TO WIN.
You must always maintain a flexible stance.

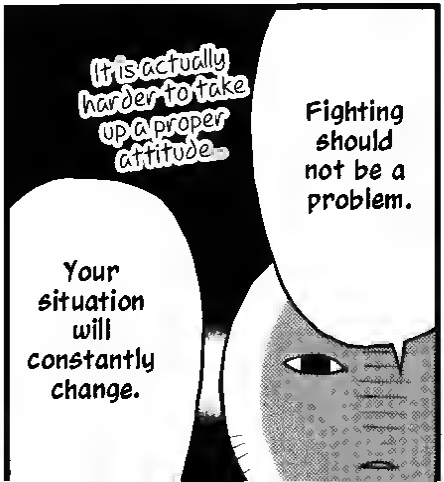
CLANG
Use this technique when clashing swords with the enemy...
...but are unable to take up a proper attitude.
GRIND
GRIND

Next up...
THE FIRE AND STONES CUT
...The Fire and Stones Cut.

Lowering your sword means defeat.
Seize the moment...
...and cut as strongly as possible without raising the sword.


SWOOSH
In order to do that...
HANDS
BODY
LEGS
...you must move three parts of your body.
Then, strike quickly with a powerful blow.


DETERMI-NATION
Extensive training of the body and adaptability is needed for such stagnant situations.

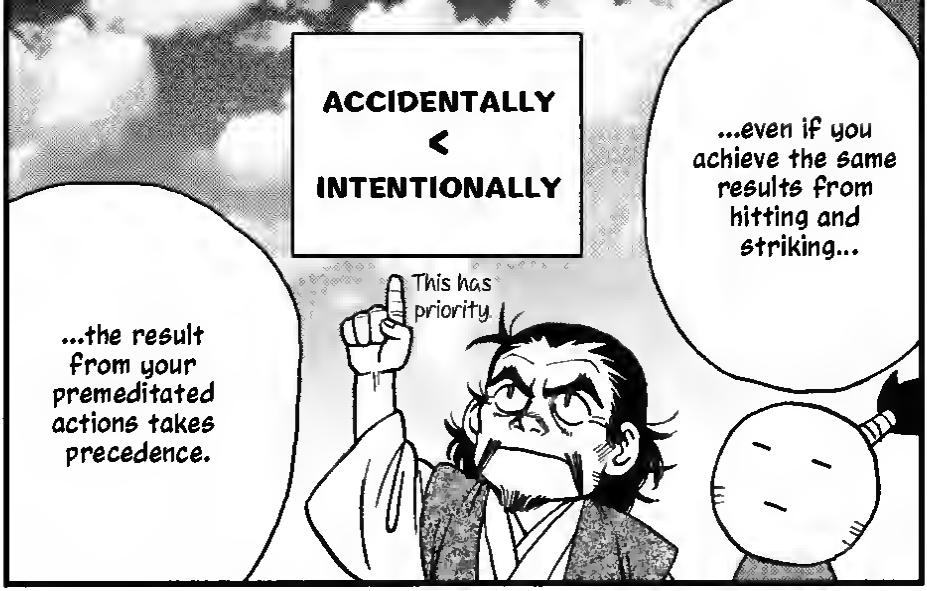

It is actually harder to take up a proper attitude...
Fighting should not be a problem.
Your situation will constantly change.

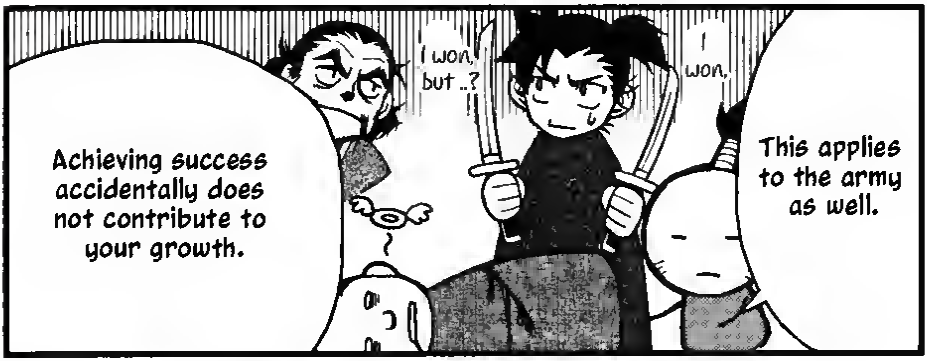
I'll cut you!
Striking refers to when...
...one strikes consciously.

SLASH
Oh!
As for hitting.
...it refers to when you strike by chance.
SWOOSH
SWOOSH

STRIKING
• No Design, No Conception
• Flowing Water Cut
HITTING
• Continuous Cut
• Fire and Stones Cut
Let's sum it up.
The terms strike and hit previously discussed are Musashi's unique concepts.
I want to add one more thing.

But, guessing is guessing after all. It is different from a premeditated attack.
NO
In other words...
?
You unintentionally swing your sword strongly...
...and defeat the enemy.


ACCIDENTALLY
<
INTENTIONALLY
...even if you achieve the same results from hitting and striking...
This has priority.
...the result from your premeditated actions takes precedence.

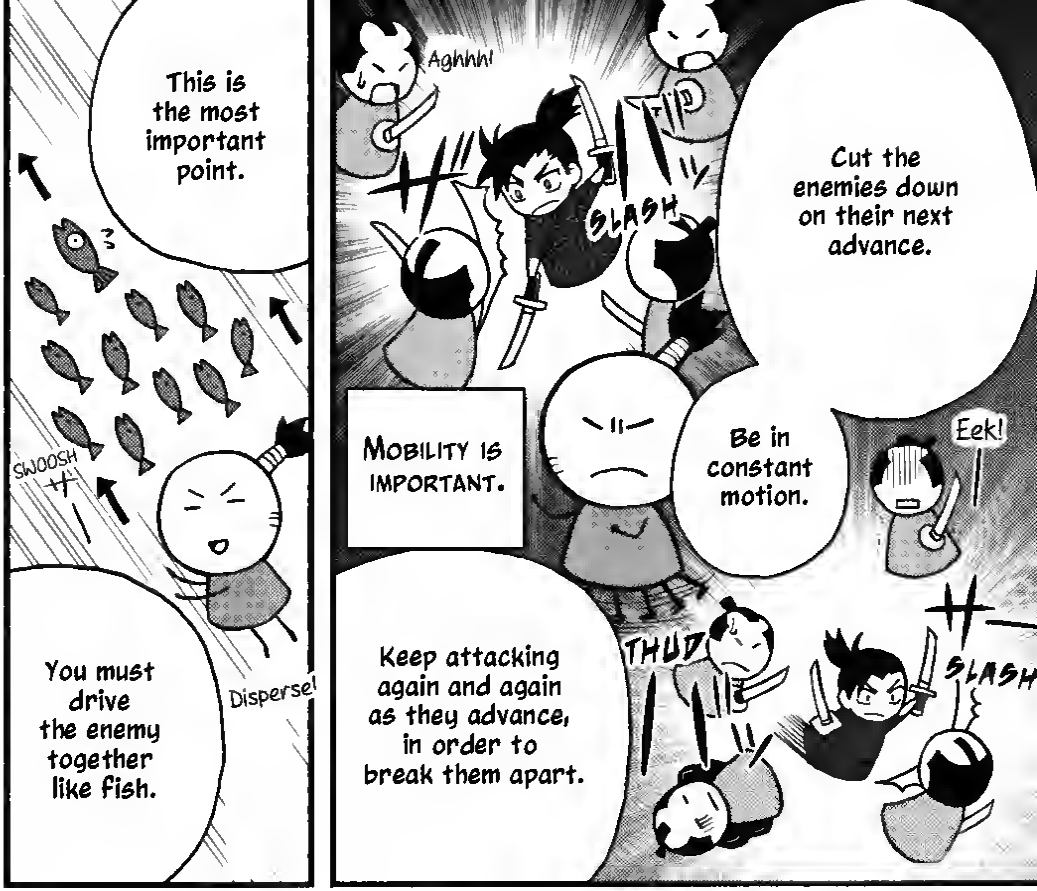

I won, but..?
I won.
This applies to the army as well.
Achieving success accidentally does not contribute to your growth.

FURTHER HEIGHTS
Success depends on a strong will and effort.
Foster your confidence and pride, and aim for further heights.

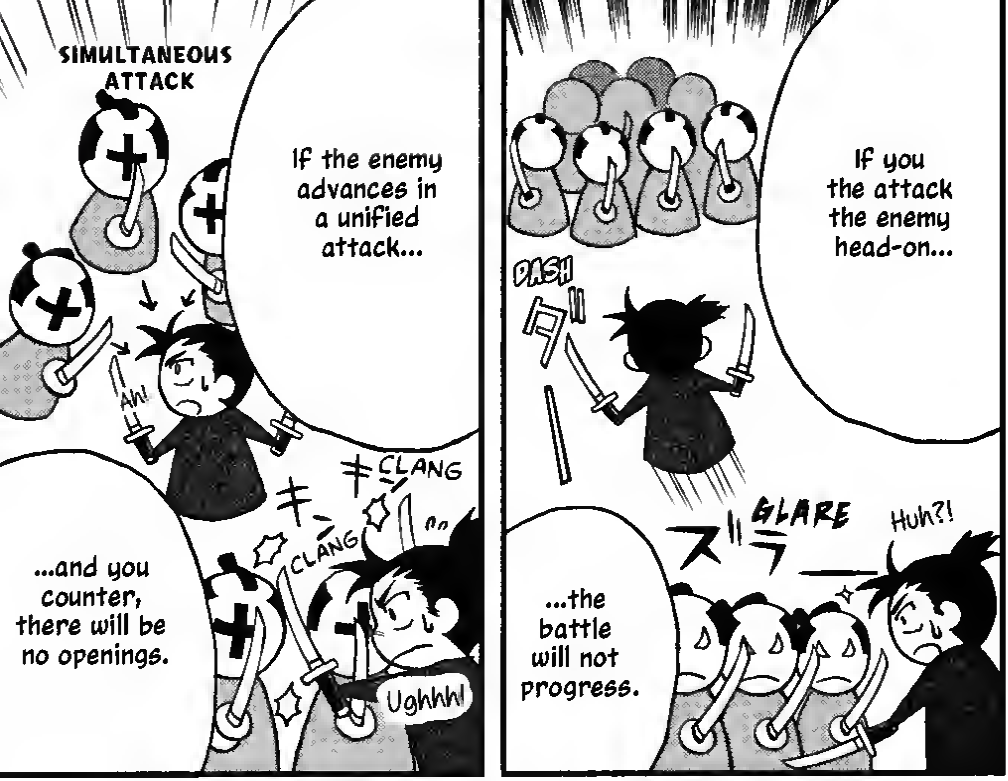
TRUST-WORTHY
Musashi states that the best method is that of consciously achieving your goals.

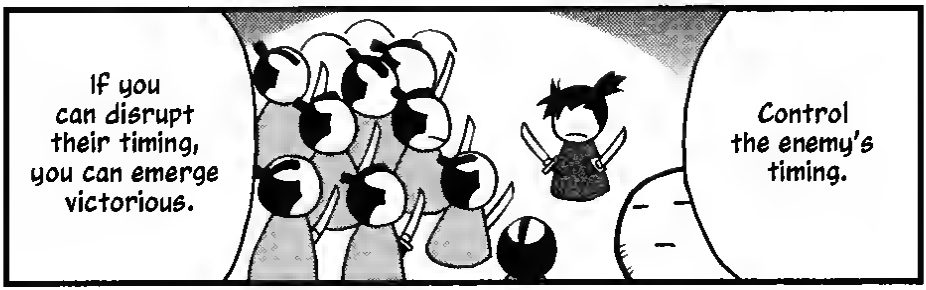
WHOOSH
This technique applies when you are fighting one against many.
As the enemies approach...
There are Many Enemies
Next up...
...There are Many Enemies.
SWISH
...a wide-stretched left and right attitude.
...draw both of your swords and assume...
Instead, chase the enemies around.
There is a reason for this.
BAM
SWISH
オラ SWISH
オラ
Even when they come from all four directions...
...and surround you, do not act rashly.

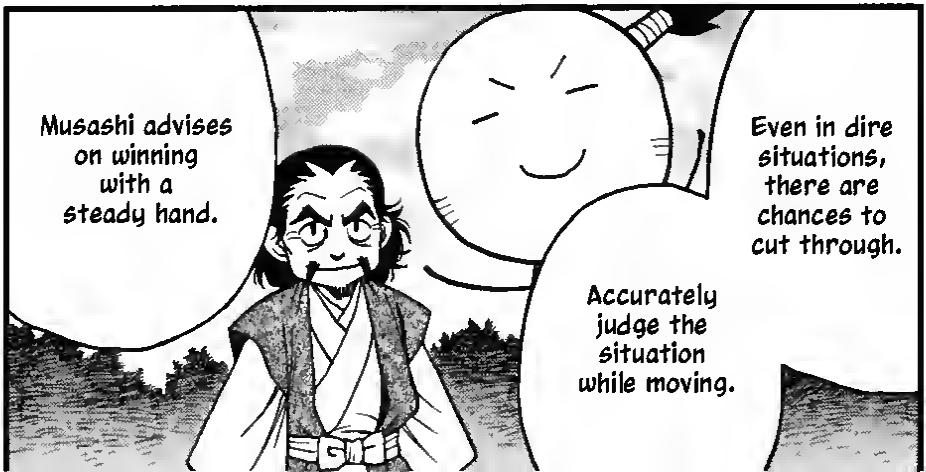
Observe their attacking order.
Who will attack next?
Who will attack first?
DASH
4 ?
2
3
1
Sweep your eyes around broadly, carefully examining the attacking order.
Attacking Order
WAH
CLANG
Go to meet those who attack first.
Then, follow up.
SWISH
...quickly re-assume your original attitude.
Then...
Cut left and right alternately with your swords.
SWOOSH

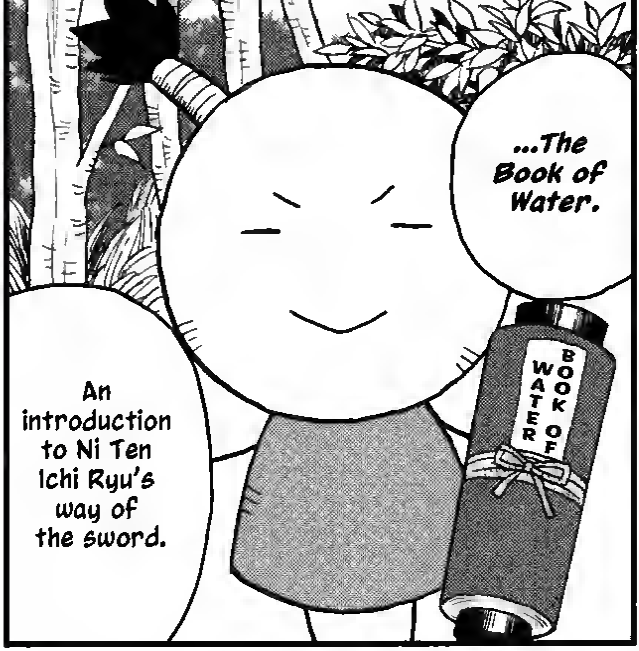

This is the most important point.
SWOOSH
Disperse!
You must drive the enemy together like fish.
Aghhh!
SLASH
Cut the enemies down on their next advance.
MOBILITY IS IMPORTANT.
Be in constant motion.
Eek!
Keep attacking again and again as they advance, in order to break them apart.
THUD
SLASH

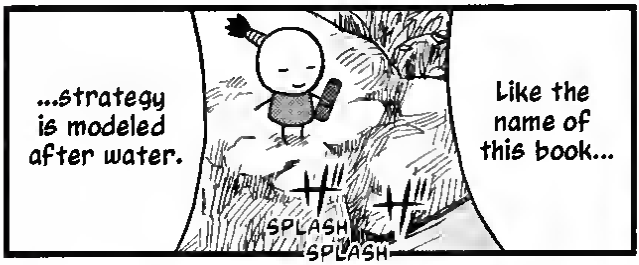
CRUSH EVERYONE.
When they are piled in disorder...
CROWD
Cut them down strongly without giving them room to move.
...aim for the stragglers.
ONE-BY-ONE


SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK
If the enemy advances in a unified attack...
AH!
CLANG
CLANG
Ughhh!
...and you counter, there will be no openings.
If you the attack the enemy head-on...
DASH!
GLARE
Huh?!
...the battle will not progress.

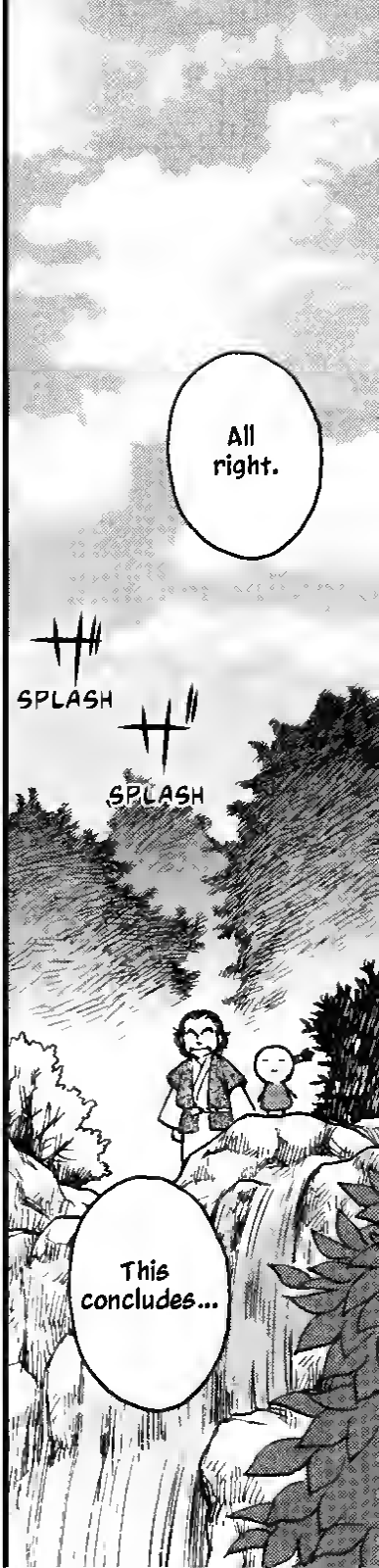

If you can disrupt their timing, you can emerge victorious.
Control the enemy's timing.


Musashi advises on winning with a steady hand.
Even in dire situations, there are chances to cut through.
Accurately judge the situation while moving.


...The Book of Water.
An introduction to Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's way of the sword.
BOOK OF WATER

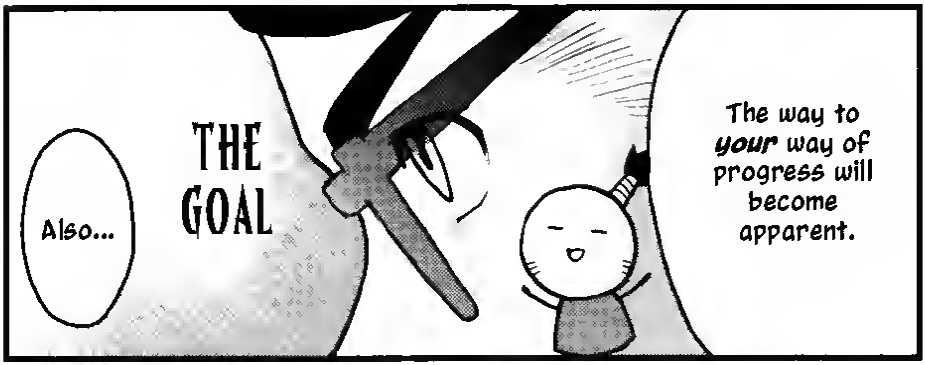

...strategy is modeled after water.
Like the name of this book...
SPLASH
SPLASH

It is the basis of everything.
SIGHT
The boundless flexibility of mind and body.
Once you understand Musashi's way of the sword, you will be able to see many things.
PERCEPTION
SPIRIT


All right.
SPLASH
SPLASH
This concludes...

GLINT
Make your whole body flexible...
...and your mind strong and quick.
Yeah!
Even in the present-day...
...the spirit of water can be applied.
Rhythm and Timing for Benefit
Deepen your understanding of strategic timing...
...and master the use of one of your own tools.
Business, sports, and other fields
SWING
BAM
By moving harmoniously with our teachings...
...you will obtain a good command of your job.
And in the future...

Am I being stubborn? Am I making the right choices to reach my goals?
...even outperform a person at work...
Reflect on how to improve your own strategy.
...or two.


THE GOAL
Also...
The way to *your* way of progress will become apparent.

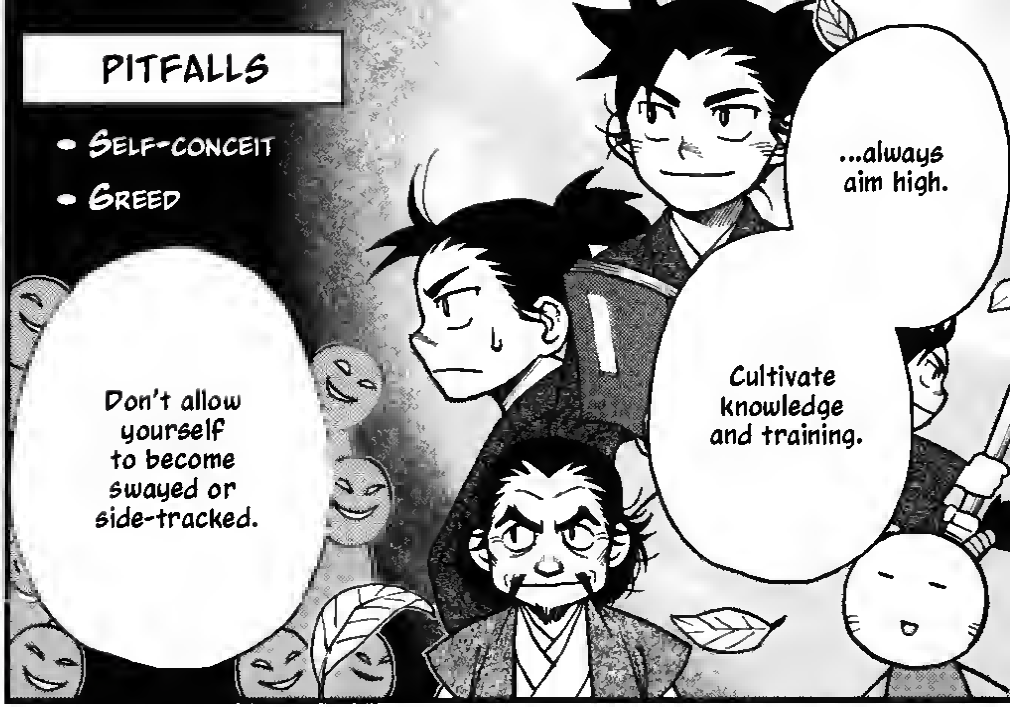
There's no one you can't deal with.
No matter whom you interact with...
...know the other person's spirit.

SPIRIT OF WATER
Always bear a strategic mind.
Devote yourself to mastering the way of strategy.
AMBITION

The way of strategy that overcomes all is endless.
Musashi states at the end of *The Book of Water*...
...walk the thousand-mile road step-by-step.

Strategists must walk this road patiently...
...and train in the way of strategy.

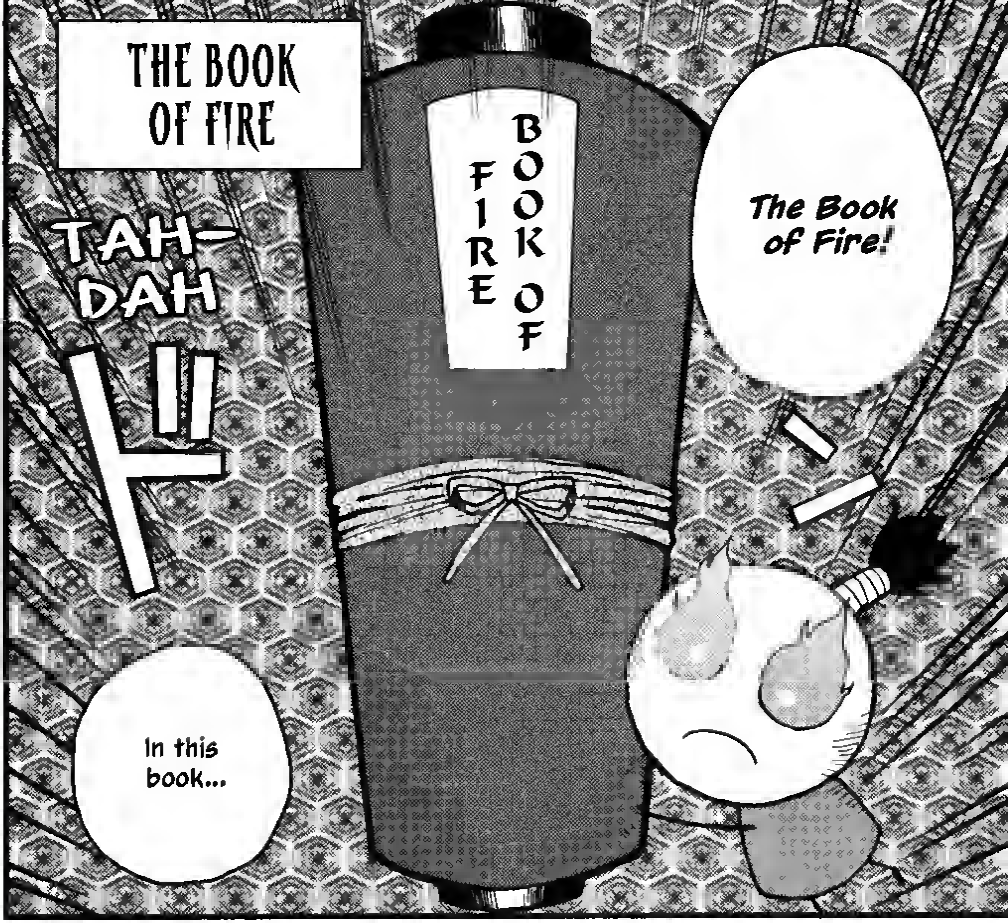
Today, is victory over the self of yesterday.
Tomorrow, is your victory over those aligned with you.
Next, in order to defeat more skillful opponents...

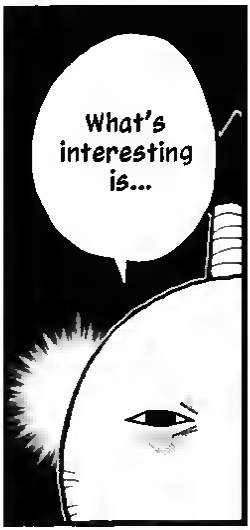

PITFALLS
• Self-conceit
• Greed
Don't allow yourself to become swayed or side-tracked.
Cultivate knowledge and training.
...always aim high.

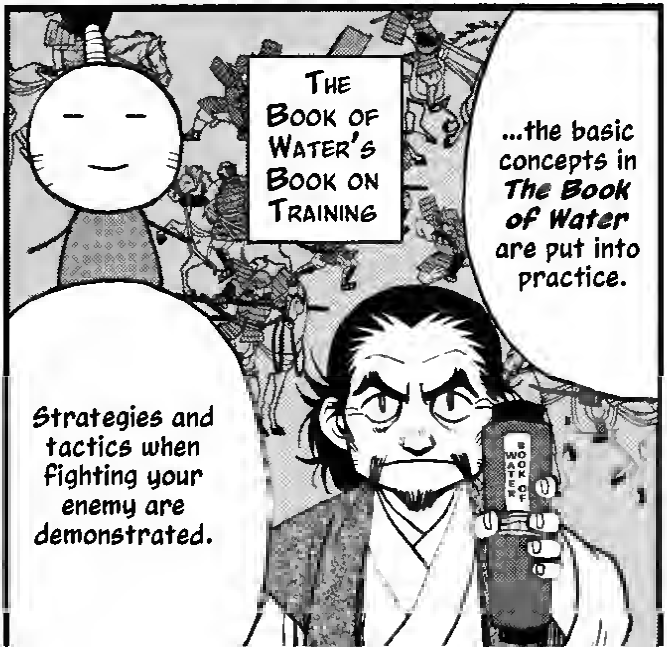
I see. It is as Musashi said.
To overcome all, you must face others and yourself.

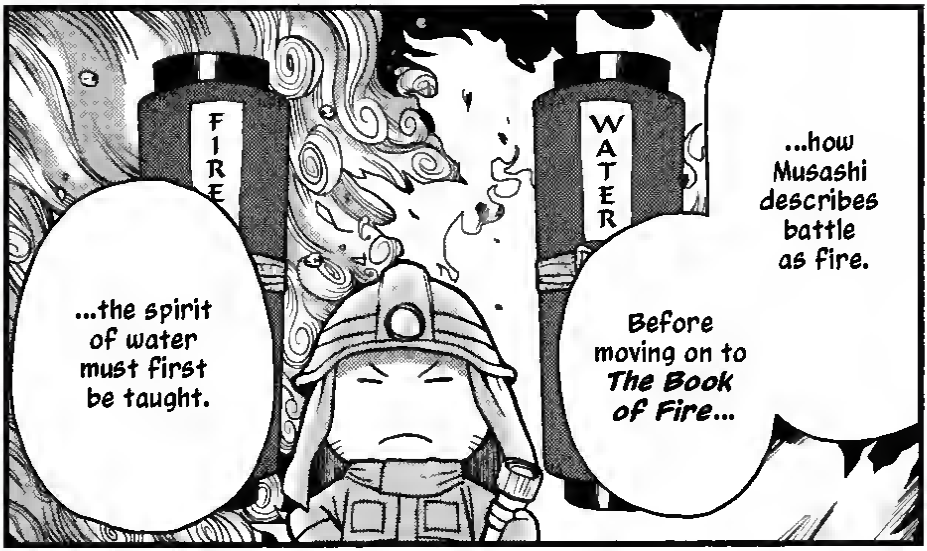
If you can master the way of strategy with your own actions...
...then you will be able to beat several tens of men.
That's right.

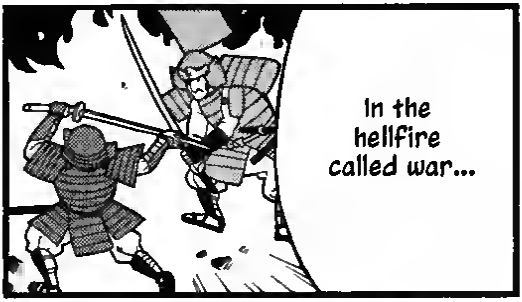
Musashi calls a thousand days of training, *forging*.
And ten thousand days of training, *polish*.
Like forging iron, take your time to forge and refine yourself.
That is the lifetime responsibility of strategists.
Refine yourself further by increasing your sturdiness.
Finally ...
On to the next book.


THE BOOK OF FIRE
TAH-DAH
BOOK OF FIRE
The Book of Fire!
In this book...

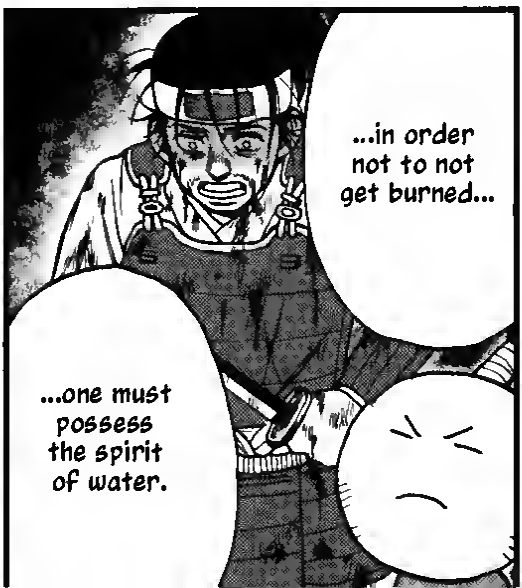

What's interesting is...

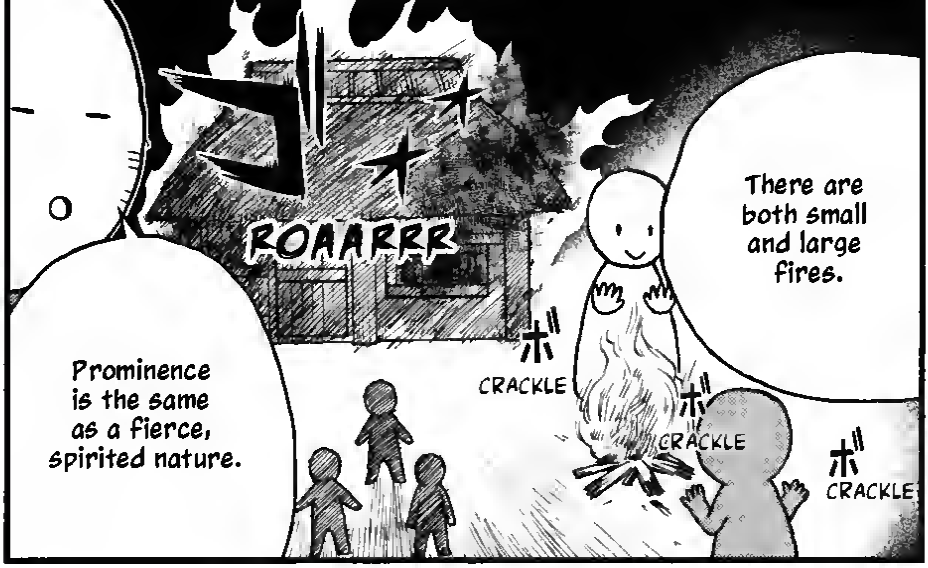

THE BOOK OF WATER'S BOOK ON TRAINING
...the basic concepts in The Book of Water are put into practice.
Strategies and tactics when fighting your enemy are demonstrated.
BOOK OF WATER


FIRE
WATER
...how Musashi describes battle as fire.
Before moving on to *The Book of Fire*...
...the spirit of water must first be taught.


In the hellfire called war...

To that degree, Musashi...
...knew the flames of battle burned violently.

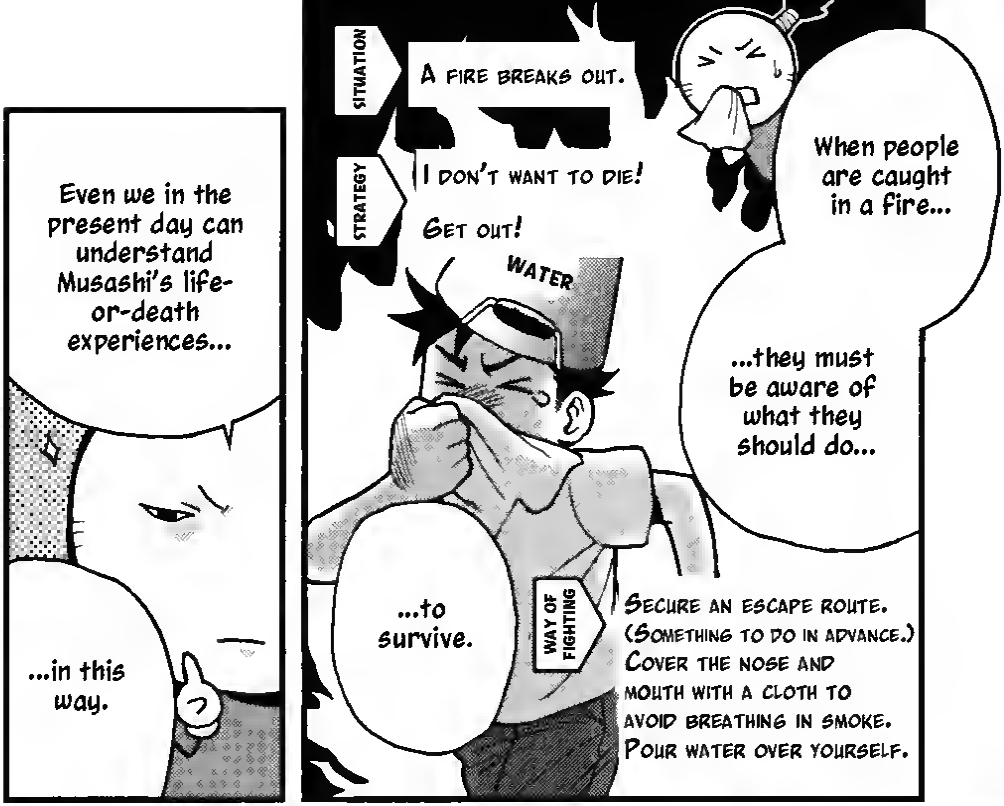

...in order not to not get burned...
...one must possess the spirit of water.

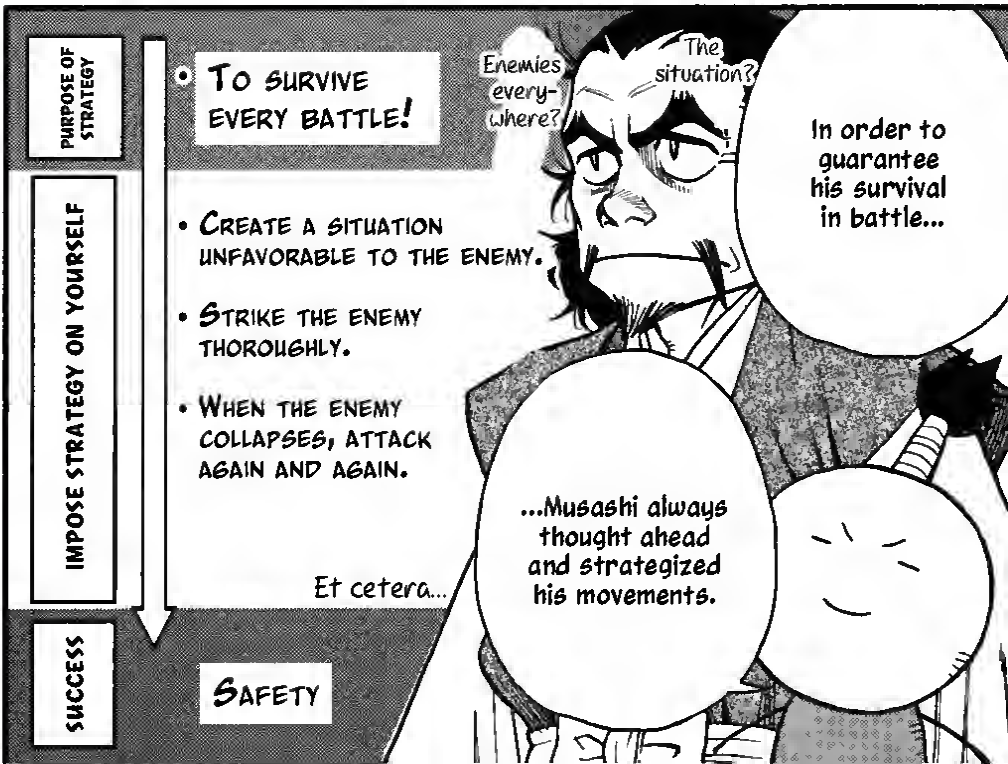

ROAARRR
Prominence is the same as a fierce, spirited nature.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
There are both small and large fires.

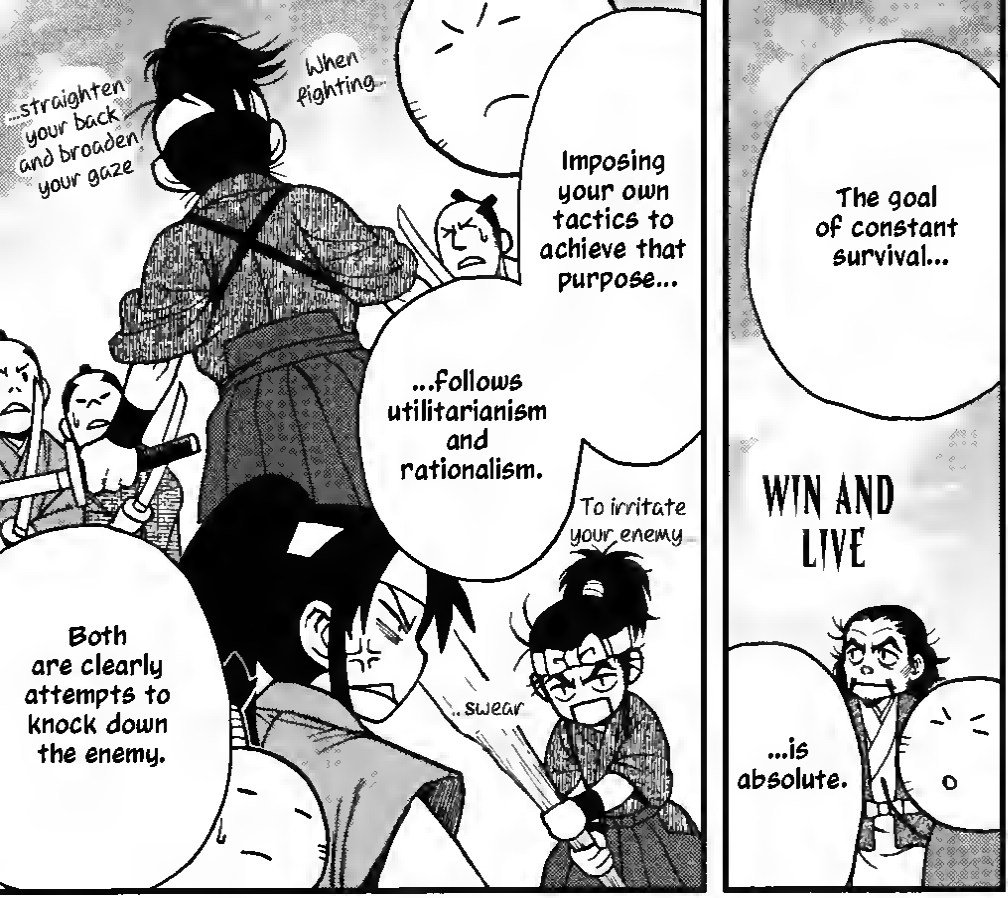
...and large-scale battles.
...with both individual combat...
The way of battle deals...

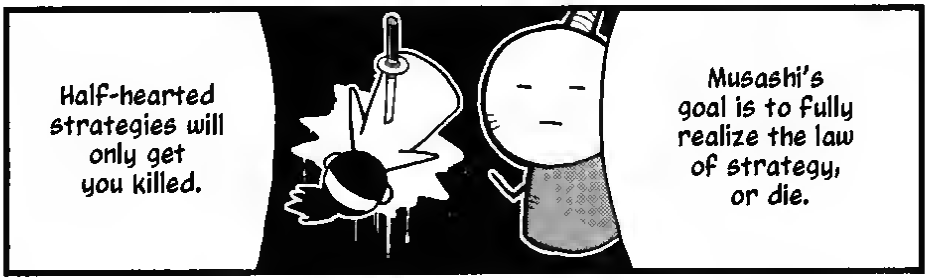
Like a flame.
No matter what sort of battle, you must violently fight for your life.

Even Musashi survived ghastly battlefields and fights to the death.
He also watched countless people fall in battle.
After so many scorching experiences ...
...Musashi began to research the principles of life and death.
He then started to win after sharpening his fighting instincts.
He obtained the eyes of a strategist.
Or so they say.

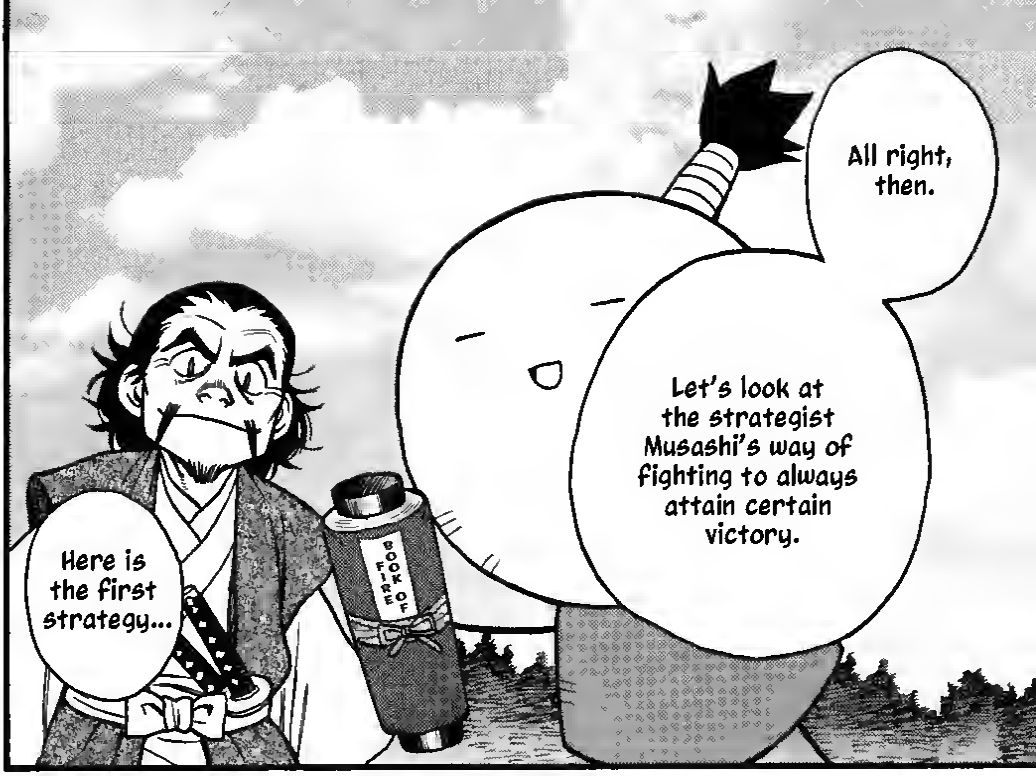

Even we in the present day can understand Musashi's life-or-death experiences...
...in this way.
SITUATION
A FIRE BREAKS OUT.
STRATEGY
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
GET OUT!
WATER
When people are caught in a fire...
...they must be aware of what they should do...
...to survive.
WAY OF FIGHTING
SECURE AN ESCAPE ROUTE. (SOMETHING TO DO IN ADVANCE.)
COVER THE NOSE AND MOUTH WITH A CLOTH TO AVOID BREATHING IN SMOKE.
POUR WATER OVER YOURSELF.

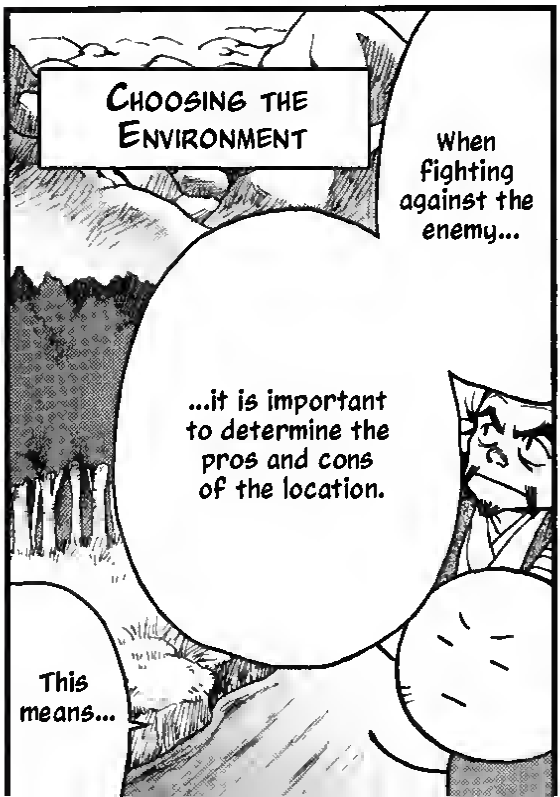

PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
• TO SURVIVE EVERY BATTLE!
IMPOSE STRATEGY ON YOURSELF
• CREATE A SITUATION UNFAVORABLE TO THE ENEMY.
• STRIKE THE ENEMY THOROUGHLY.
• WHEN THE ENEMY COLLAPSES, ATTACK AGAIN AND AGAIN.
Et cetera...
SUCCESS
SAFETY
Enemies everywhere?
The situation?
In order to guarantee his survival in battle...
...Musashi always thought ahead and strategized his movements.

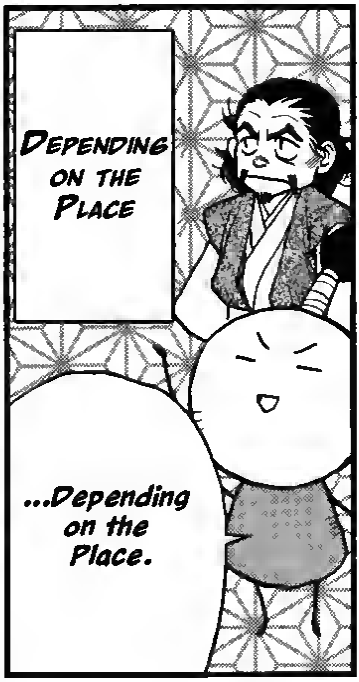

...straighten your back and broaden your gaze
When fighting...
Imposing your own tactics to achieve that purpose...
...follows utilitarianism and rationalism.
To irritate your enemy
..swear
Both are clearly attempts to knock down the enemy.
The goal of constant survival...
WIN AND LIVE
...is absolute.


Half-hearted strategies will only get you killed.
Musashi's goal is to fully realize the law of strategy, or die.

...Musashi always studied the situation critically and thought of ways to attain certain victory.
With the fires of war in front of him...

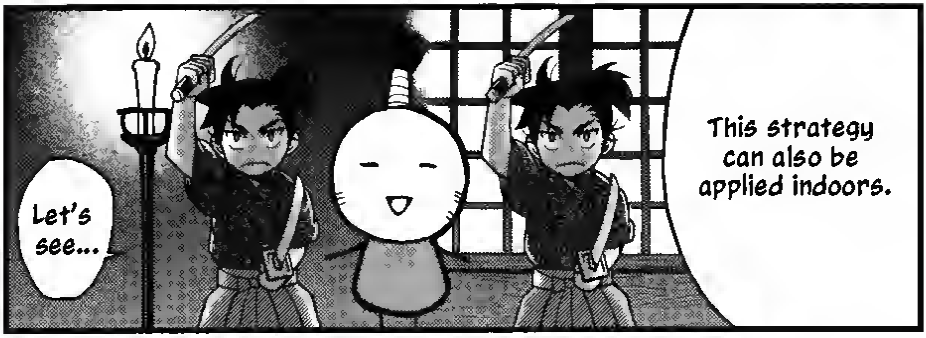

All right, then.
Let's look at the strategist Musashi's way of fighting to always attain certain victory.
Here is the first strategy...
BOOK OF FIRE

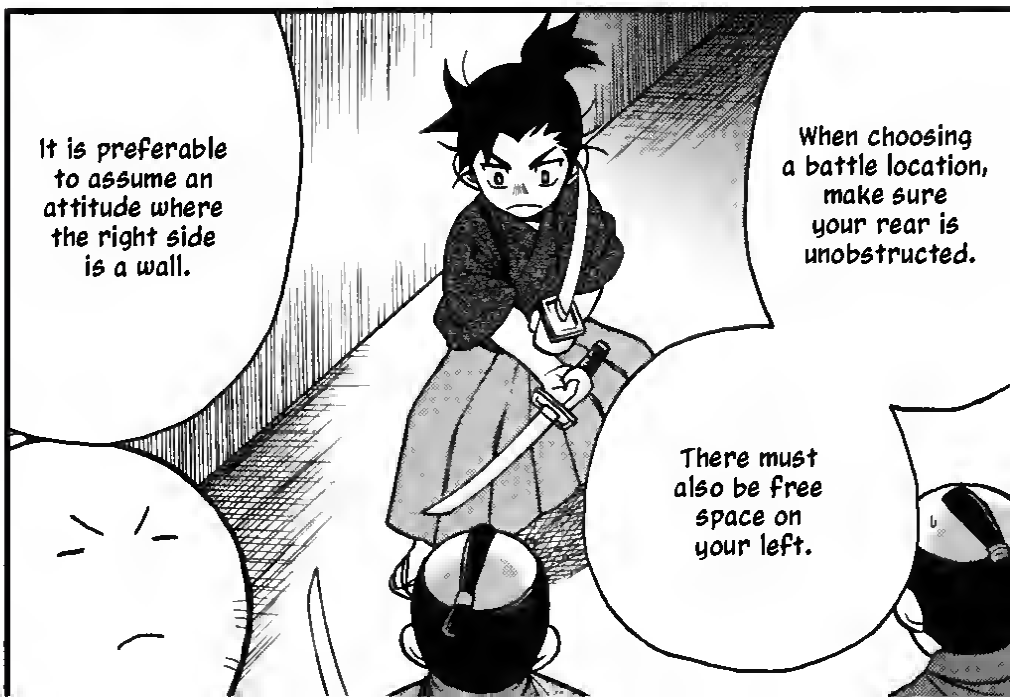

Choosing the Environment
When fighting against the enemy...
...it is important to determine the pros and cons of the location.
This means...


Depending on the Place
...Depending on the Place.

When determining your location against the enemy...
...take up an attitude with the sun behind you.
CORNER
...to chase your enemy towards areas difficult to fight in.
Advance the fight to your advantage.
I'll explain.
This will obstruct your enemy's vision...
...and limit their actions.
Too bright!
Or...
If the situation does not allow this...
...then Musashi suggests trying to keep the sun on your right side.
Too bright!
The result will be the same.

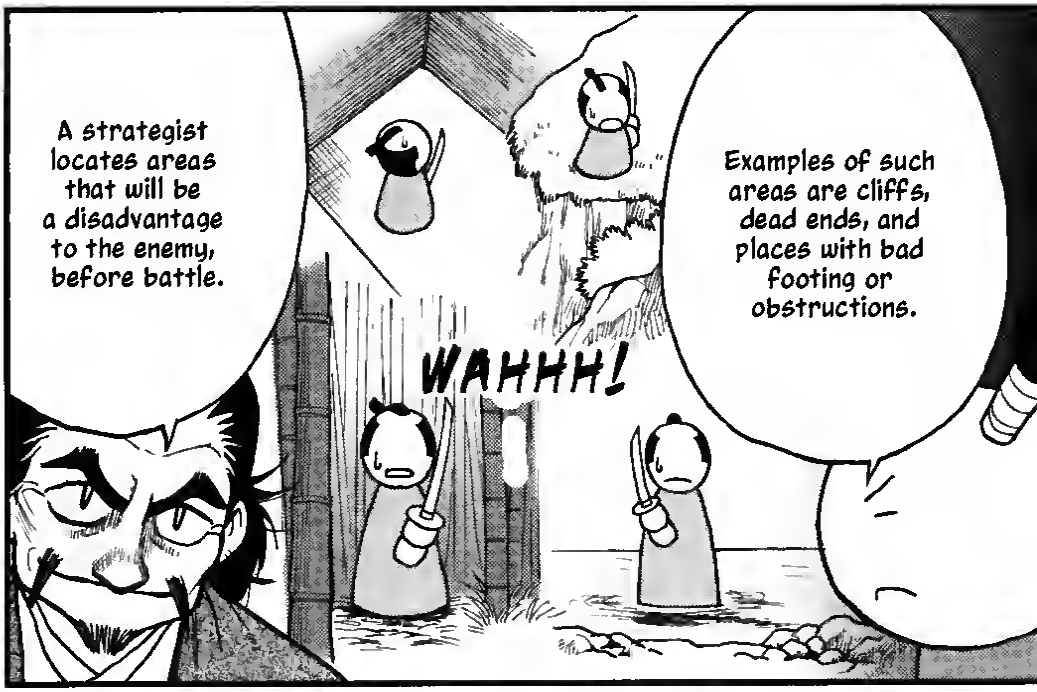
At night, if your surroundings are visible...
...keep the fire behind you...
...or on your right side.
70 PAGE
70 PAGE


This strategy can also be applied indoors.
Let's see...

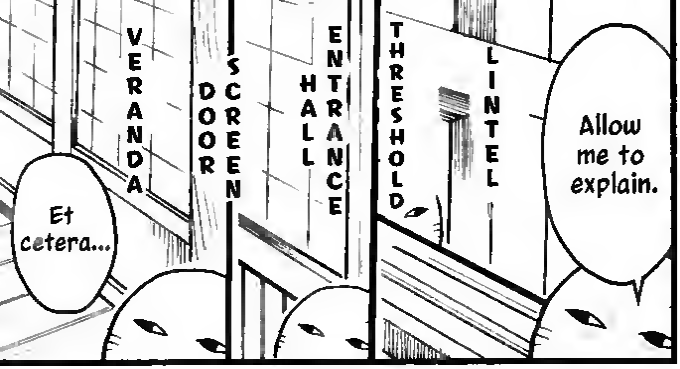

When choosing a battle location, make sure your rear is unobstructed.
It is preferable to assume an attitude where the right side is a wall.
There must also be free space on your left.

When deciding on a high or low location...
HIGH
HMM
LOW
...take up your attitude on slightly higher places.
PRESSURE
プレッシャー
You must look down on the enemy.
Yikes!
In a room, imagine you are in a high place of honor and confront the enemy.
SILENCE
Mentally form a difference in height level.
UGHHH
?
Right.
If you can find an advantageous location in battle...
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
...you will have a chance to maneuver the fight to your advantage.

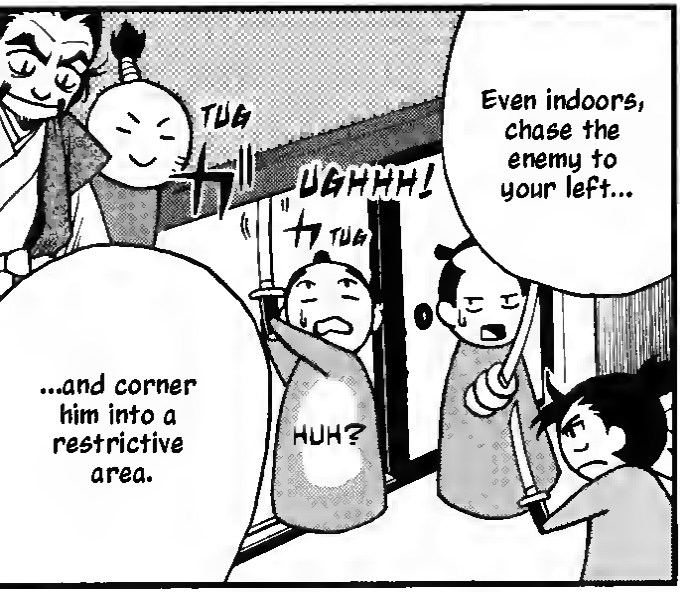
Try to drive them into a perilous area.
Chase the enemy around to your left side.
PERILOUS AREA


A strategist locates areas that will be a disadvantage to the enemy, before battle.
WAHHH!
Examples of such areas are cliffs, dead ends, and places with bad footing or obstructions.

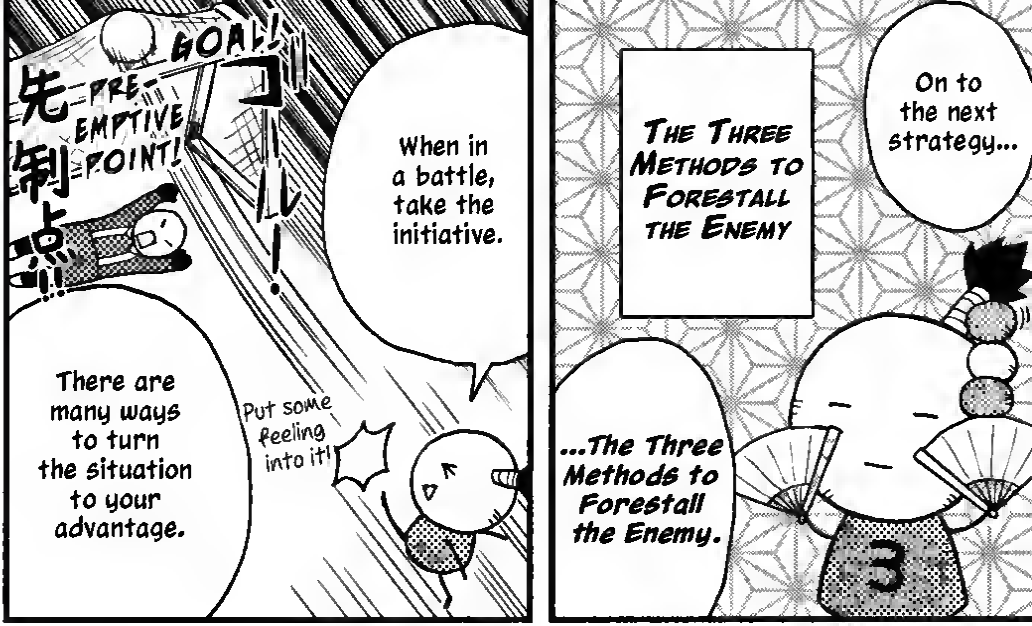
Corner him mentally as well.
COME ON!
COME ON!
When cornering the enemy, do not let him look around.

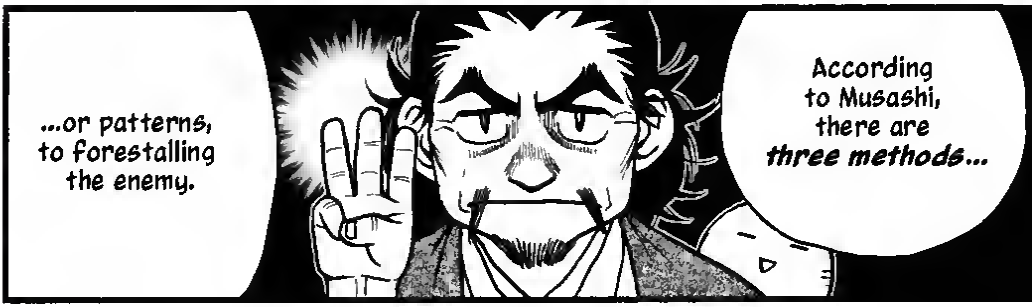

VERANDA
SCREEN DOOR
HALL
ENTRANCE
THRESHOLD
LINTEL
Et cetera...
Allow me to explain.

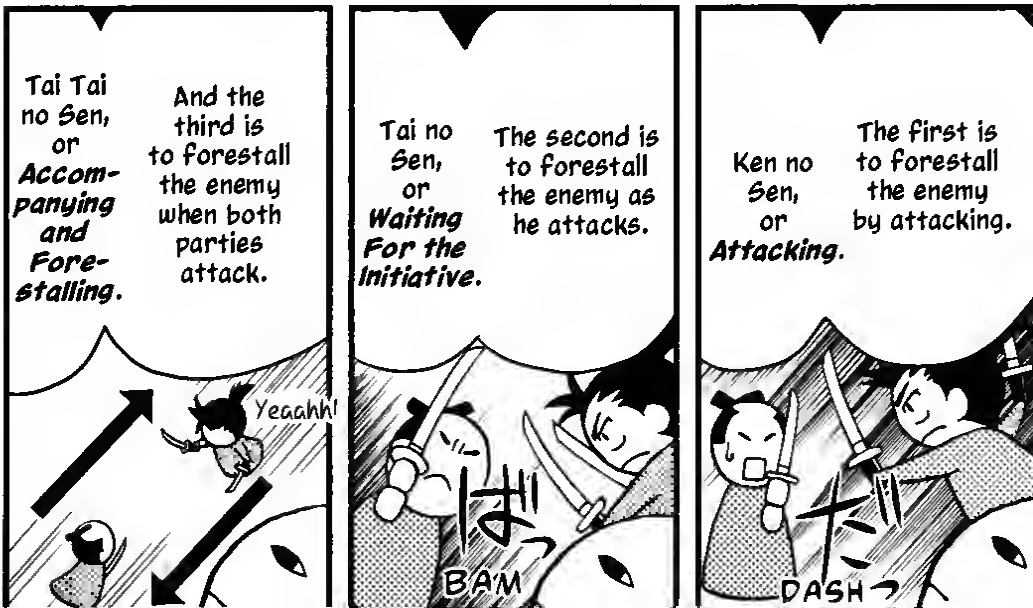
This strategy can be applied within a building...
...or within a room.


TUG
UGHHH!
TUG
HUH?
Even indoors, chase the enemy to your left...
...and corner him into a restrictive area.

In any battle...
...it is important to take advantage of your environment...
...in order to attain your objective.
OOHHH

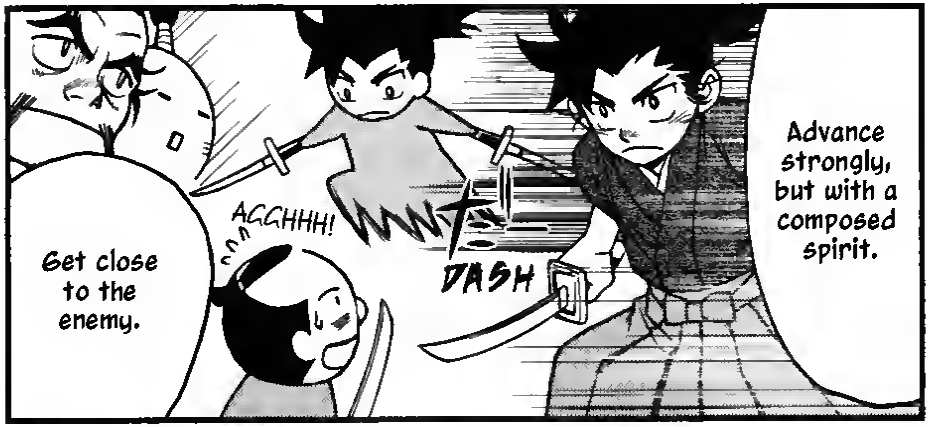

GOAL!
先-PRE-EMPTIVE-POINT!制
When in a battle, take the initiative.
There are many ways to turn the situation to your advantage.
Put some feeling into it!
THE THREE METHODS TO FORESTALL THE ENEMY
On to the next strategy...
...The Three Methods to Forestall the Enemy.
3


...or patterns, to forestalling the enemy.
According to Musashi, there are three methods...


Tai Tai no Sen, or Accompanying and Forestalling.
And the third is to forestall the enemy when both parties attack.
Yeaahh!
Tai no Sen, or Waiting For the Initiative.
The second is to forestall the enemy as he attacks.
BAM
Ken no Sen, or Attacking.
The first is to forestall the enemy by attacking.
DASH

To Fore-stall
Forestalling means victory is as good as yours.
It is one of the most important aspects of strategy.
There are no other methods to forestall other than these three.
That is correct.
Choose the method that offers the most advantage in your situation.
WAIT
ATTACK
ACCOM-PANY
Which is the best strategy?
Consider which method to use.
You must not be hasty.
PIP
PIP
Enemy detected!
When you decide to attack...
I shall now explain the first method in detail.

WHOOSH
SHHH
...first, remain calm and still.
Then, dash in quickly.

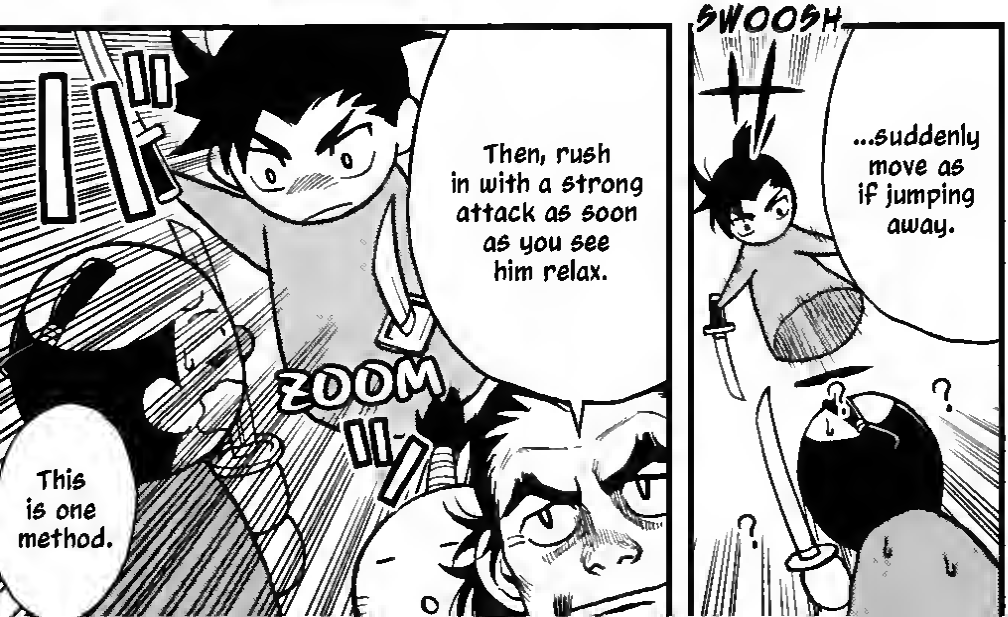

Advance strongly, but with a composed spirit.
ACCHHH!
DASH
Get close to the enemy.

From beginning to end, this method consistently crushes the enemy...
...with a strong fighting spirit.

Overwhelm him at once.
SWISH

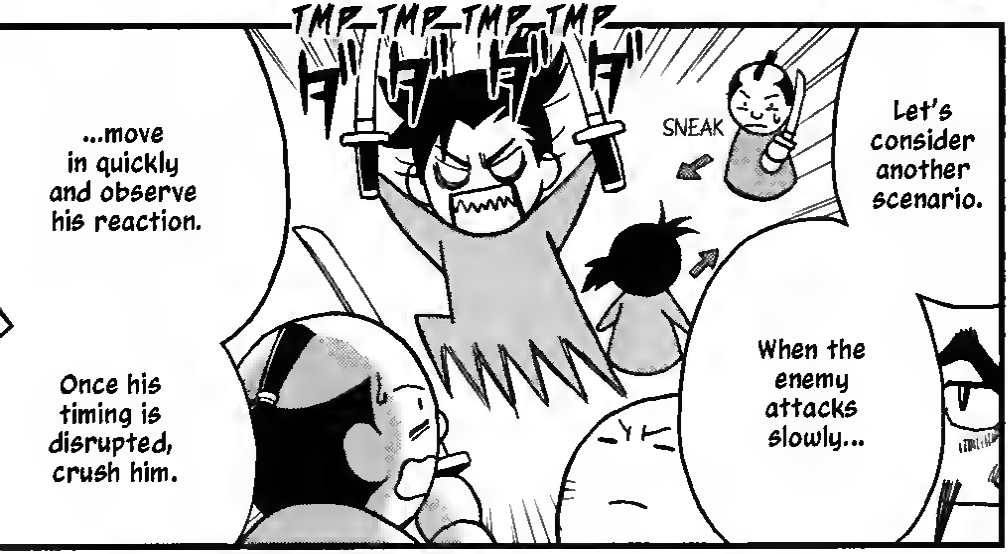
When the enemy attacks...
...you must remain undisturbed...
That's it for the first method.
Next is *Waiting For the Initiative*.
Let's see...

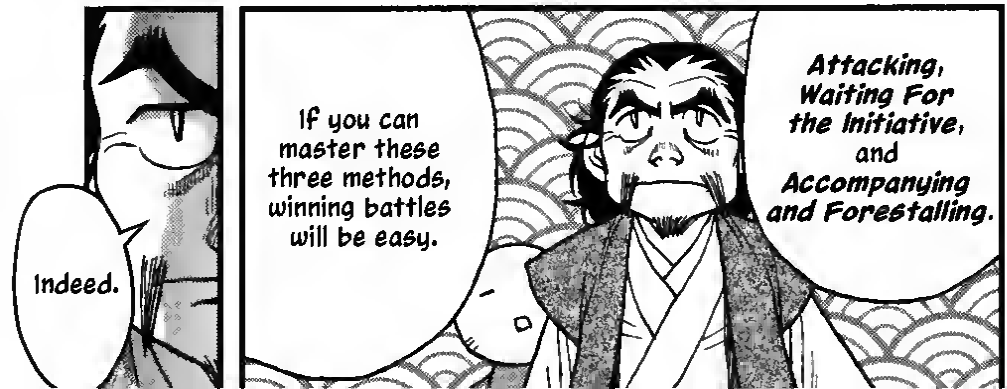
TROOP
Once the enemy approaches you...
...and feign weakness.


Then, rush in with a strong attack as soon as you see him relax.
ZOOM
This is one method.
SWOOSH
...suddenly move as if jumping away.

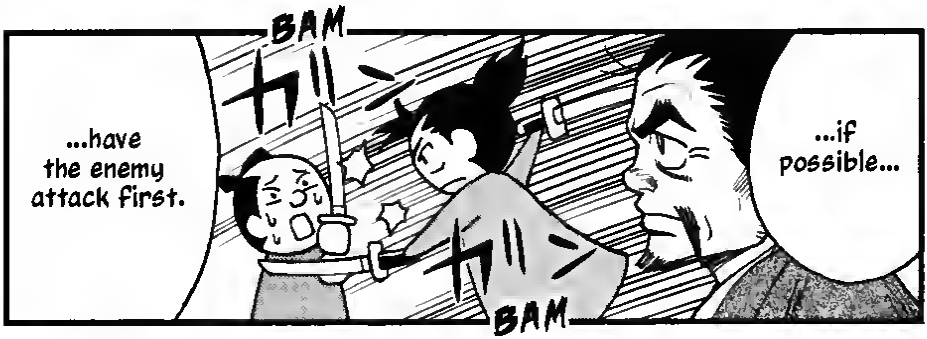
...even more fiercely than the enemy.
Whoa!
Another method is, when the enemy attacks...
DASH
...to attack...
SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH
Disrupt the enemy's timing...
...and victory is yours.
Ack!
This is the way of Waiting For the Initiative.
TMP TMP TMP TMP
As the enemy quickly approaches...
Apply this method when both parties attack simultaneously.
Lastly, the third method. Accompanying and Forestalling.

...take on a strong and calm attitude.
FWIP
However, once he draws closer...
TMP-TMP-TMP
...drop the strong attitude you previously displayed.
SLUMP
!?
スキあり
SLASH
Attack once you see the enemy's timing disrupted...
...and attain victory.


Let's consider another scenario.
SNEAK
When the enemy attacks slowly...
TMP TMP TMP TMP
...move in quickly and observe his reaction.
Once his timing is disrupted, crush him.


If you can master these three methods, winning battles will be easy.
Attacking, Waiting For the Initiative, and Accompanying and Forestalling.
Indeed.

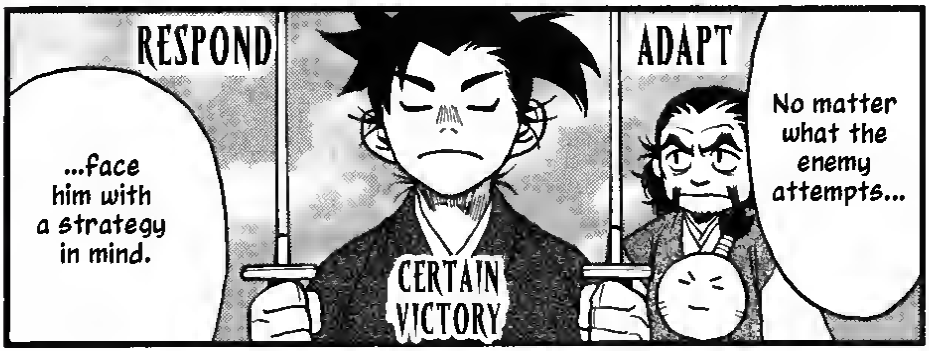
Of course, this does not mean that you must always attack first.
Rather ...
Attacking
Waiting For the Initiative
Accompanying and Forestalling
...and always bring its advantages to your side. That is the meaning of *Forestalling*.
Fully utilize a strategy's resourcefulness...

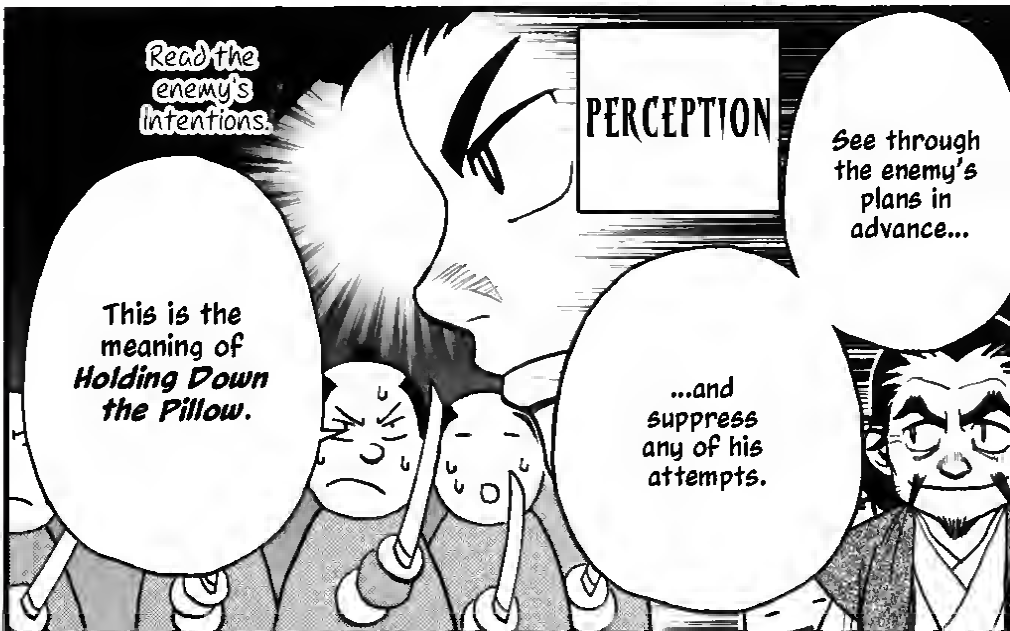

...have the enemy attack first.
BAM
カン
カン
BAM
...if possible...

COMPLETE VICTORY
Do not give him any room within which to move, and you'll win.
UNHARMED
That way, you can lead him around.

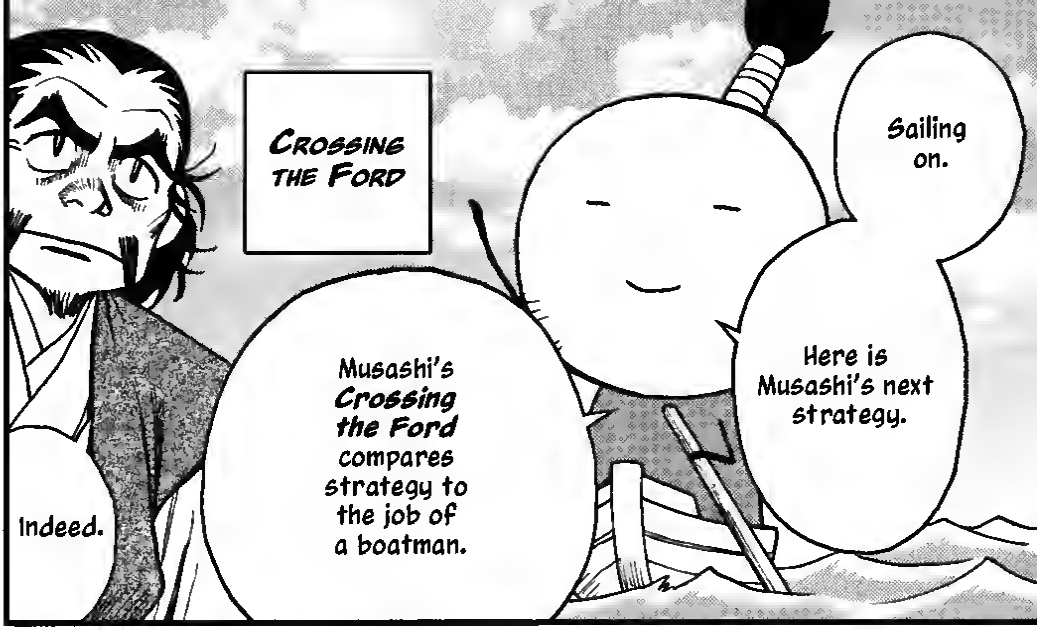
I want to avoid being led around by the enemy.
I want the enemy to make the first move!
Both sides want the same thing.
In a sense, both you and the enemy are the same.
Holding Down the Pillow
Ah, yes. There is...
...one more method I call, Holding Down the Pillow.
Holding Down the Pillow...
...means not allowing the enemy's head to rise.
That is why you must secure the dominant position.
Before the start of the battle?
You must sense the enemy's attitude in advance.

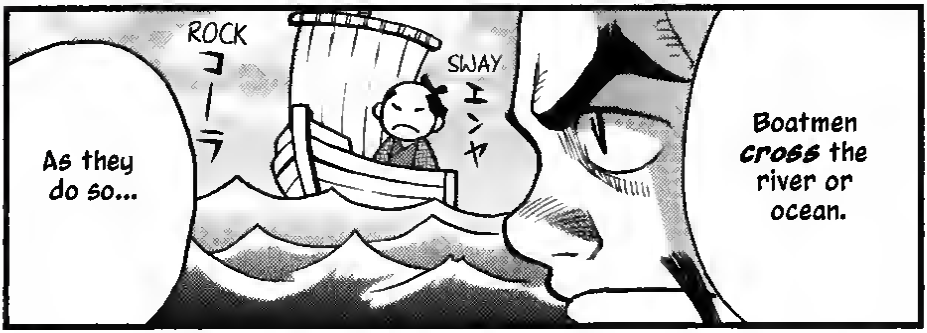
Stop the enemy's attempted attack and parry his strike.
Ughhh!
STARE
If he tries to grapple, throw off his hold.
SHOVE

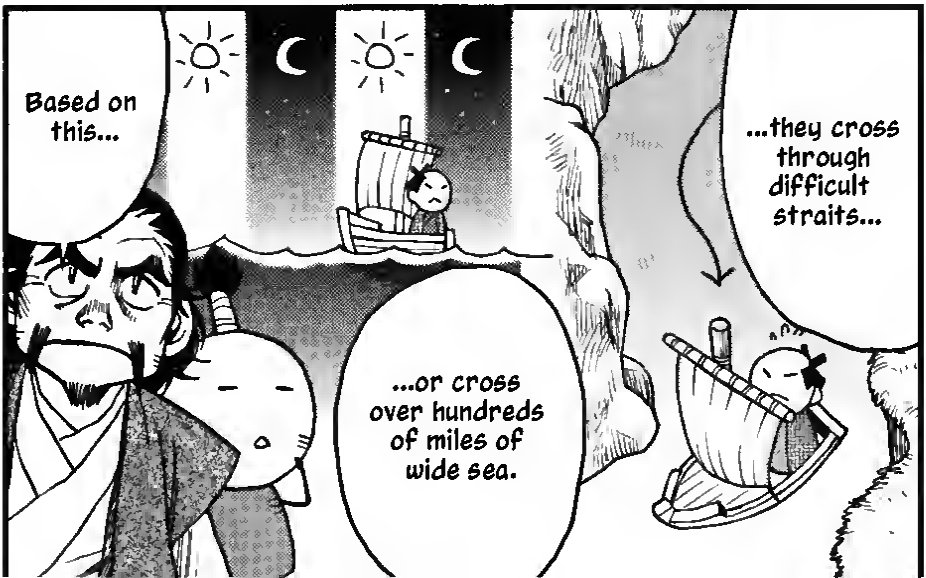

RESPOND
ADAPT
No matter what the enemy attempts...
...face him with a strategy in mind.
CERTAIN VICTORY


Read the enemy's intentions.
PERCEPTION
See through the enemy's plans in advance...
This is the meaning of ***Holding Down the Pillow***.
...and suppress any of his attempts.

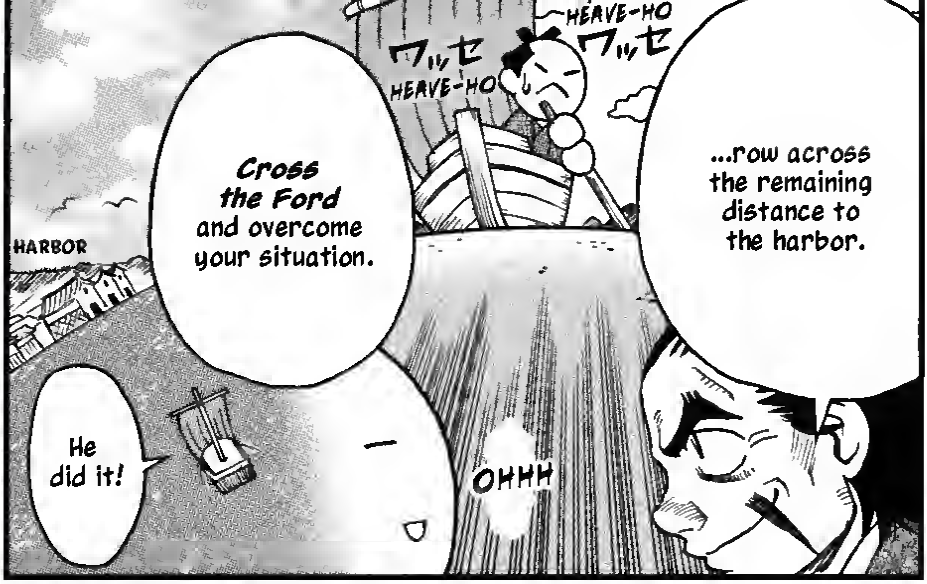
This move is pointless.
...don't suppress all of his actions, but allow the useless ones.
He's wide open... There must be a catch.
SCHEM-ING
If you sense that the enemy is scheming something...
Thwarting the enemy's plans is a very important strategy.
I was planning to knock down his sword!
Sees all.
Perceive the enemy's true aim.
ポカ
TWACK
Doing so will restrict your movements.
Umm
MOLE
...may cause you to fall behind and be forestalled instead.
Thinking only of suppressing the enemy's attacks...
However, take caution.
I see..

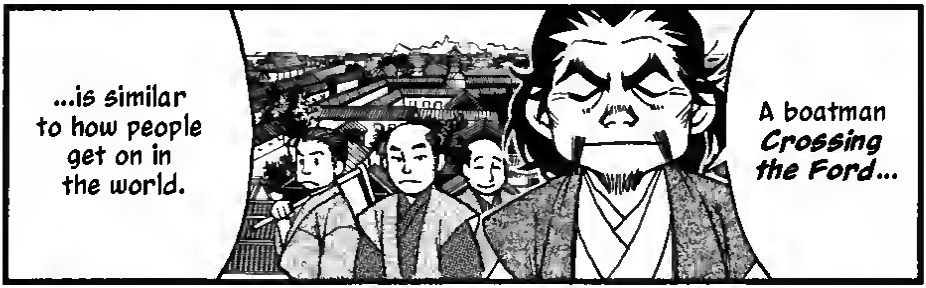

Crossing the Ford
Sailing on.
Here is Musashi's next strategy.
Musashi's *Crossing the Ford* compares strategy to the job of a boatman.
Indeed.

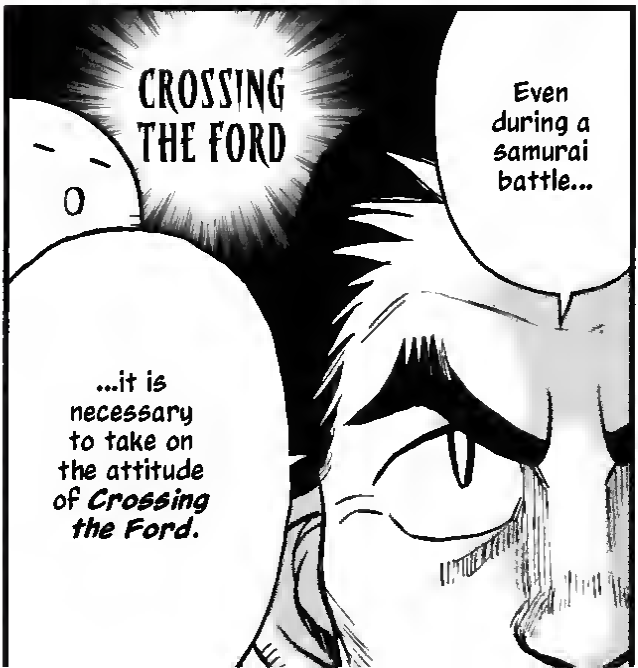

ROCK
コーラ
SWAY
エンヤ
Boatmen *cross* the river or ocean.
As they do so...


Based on this...
...they cross through difficult straits...
...or cross over hundreds of miles of wide sea.

Crossing the waters means...
SPLASH
...overcoming a difficult situation.
... *Crossing the Ford* alludes to...
...knowing the difficulties of your route...
...knowing the soundness of your ship...
...and calculating the day's forecast.
When there is a favorable tailwind, set sail.
FWOOSH
SWISH
.....
Should there be no winds to carry you...


HEAVE-HO
ワッセ
HEAVE-HO
ワッセ
...row across the remaining distance to the harbor.
OHHH
Cross the Ford and overcome your situation.
HARBOR
He did it!


A boatman Crossing the Ford...
...is similar to how people get on in the world.


CROSSING THE FORD
Even during a samurai battle...
...it is necessary to take on the attitude of Crossing the Ford.

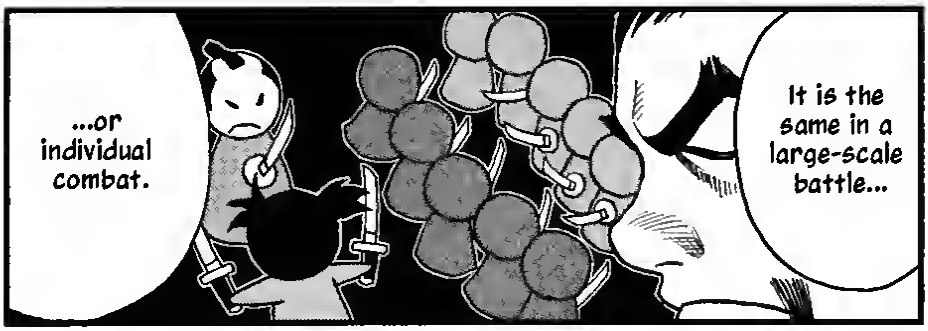
In the work of ordinary men...
Losing all household assets.
...there are situations you must overcome.

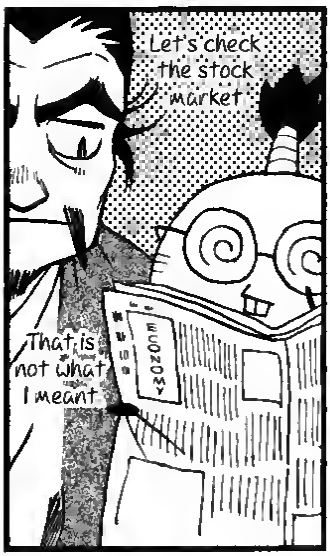
Employ strategy to sail across danger...
...as a skilled captain crosses the sea.
Discern the enemy's capabilities...
...and judge your own strong and weak points.

You must not be unprepared.
...gather information, equip yourself and carry provisions.
When war is before you...
Perceive the outcome and examine the difficult situation.

...is the most important part of strategy.
You must train well.
SURVIVE UNHARMED.
Overcoming formidable situations unharmed...

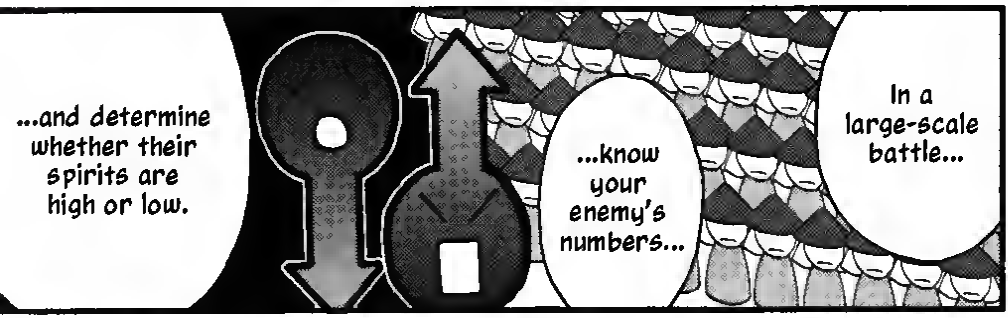
If you approach everything with a strong spirit of Crossing the Ford...
...you can put yourself in an advantageous position.
Victory will then come swiftly.


It is the same in a large-scale battle...
...or individual combat.

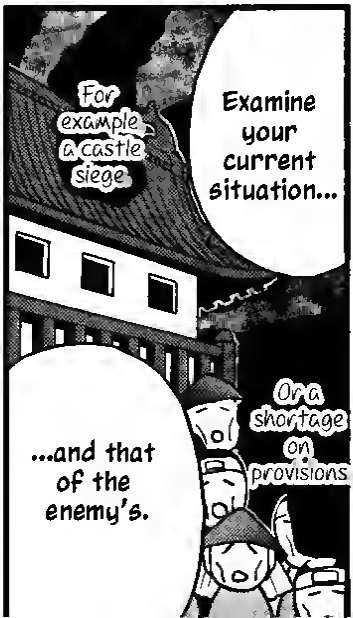

Let's check the stock market
That is not what I meant

Knowing the Times
This brings me to the next strategy.
It is also important to understand the strategy called Knowing the Times.
As in trends?

Knowing the Times is knowing your enemy's disposition and implementing the best strategy.
Timing refers to the enemy's timing in battle.
PEER
HMPH


...and determine whether their spirits are high or low.
...know your enemy's numbers...
In a large-scale battle...

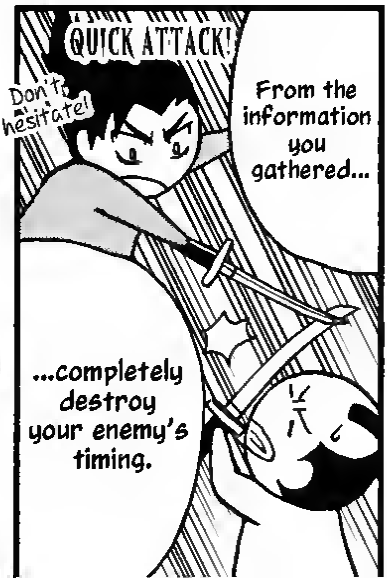
...and capture the enemy's supply line!
Surround the castle.
Determine how best to arrange your troops.
Perceive the battle's progress before the fight.
Conceive of a strategy to attain certain victory.
CASTLE

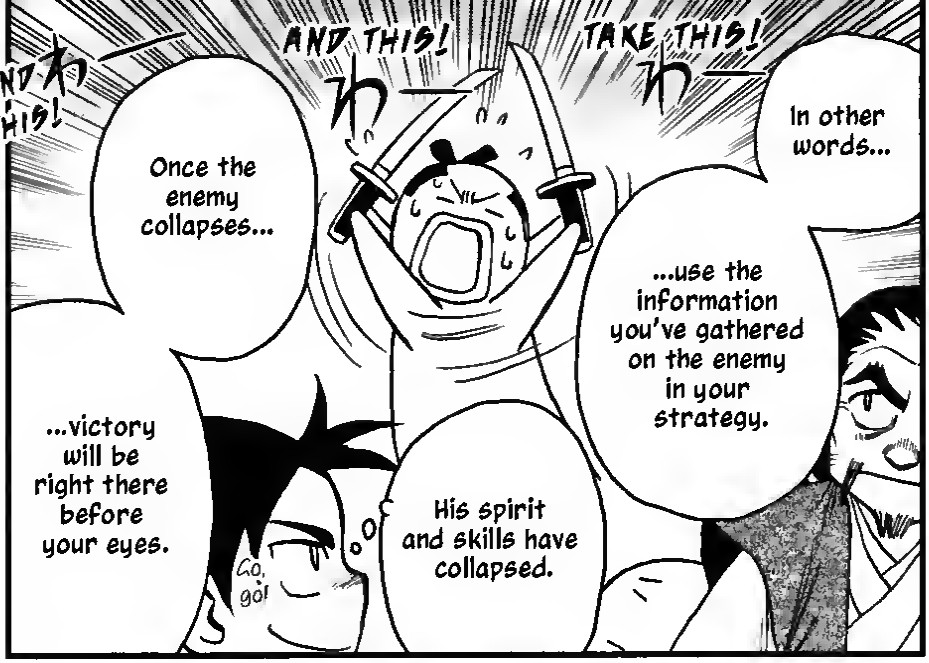

For example, a castle siege
Examine your current situation...
Or a shortage on provisions
...and that of the enemy's.

The State of the Enemy
• Does the enemy have any unique strategies or attitudes?
• What is his temperament?
Let's try another scenario.
Discern the enemy's school of strategy and disposition.
This strategy also applies to individual combat.
Know his strong and weak points.

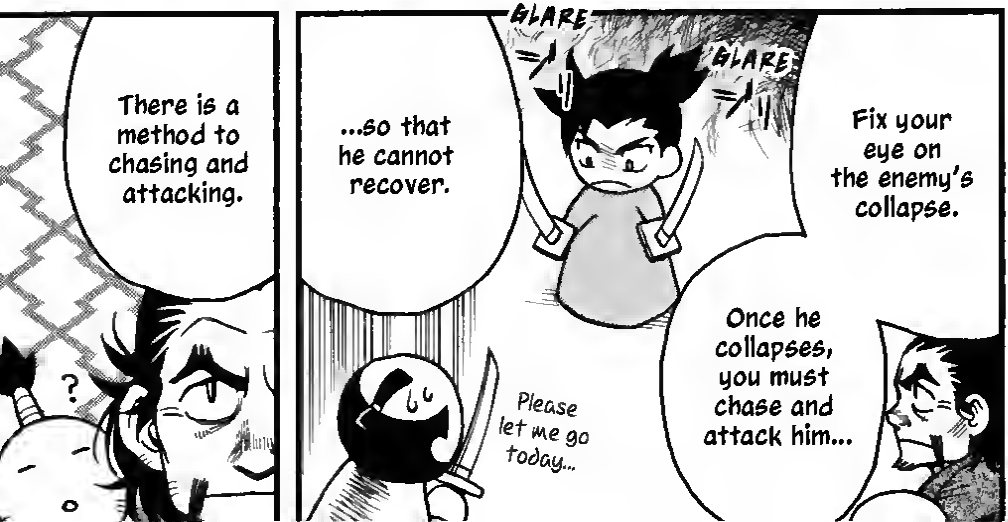
IRRITATED
The enemy is sensitive and highly strung.
Then, attack in an unsuspecting manner.

Once you see your enemy's timing disrupted...
I got him!
...target the enemy's collapse and initiate his defeat.
Argh!

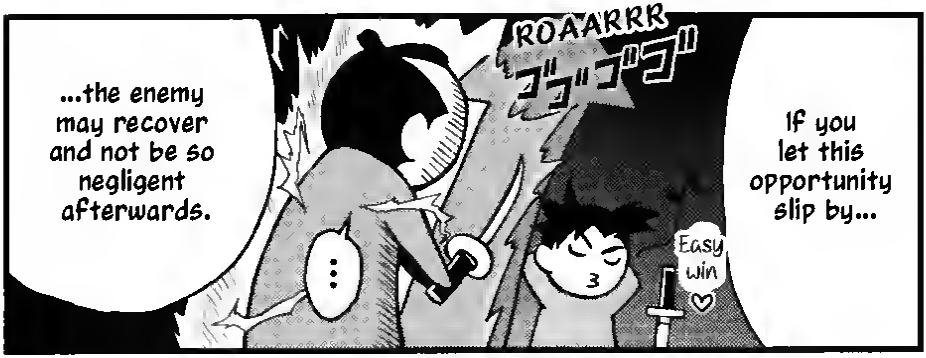

QUICK ATTACK!
Don't hesitate!
From the information you gathered...
...completely destroy your enemy's timing.


AND THIS!
AND THIS!
TAKE THIS!
Once the enemy collapses...
...victory will be right there before your eyes.
Go, go!
His spirit and skills have collapsed.
In other words...
...use the information you've gathered on the enemy in your strategy.

I've won!
HUFF
HUFF
HEH HEH HEH
All that's left is to make that victory certain.

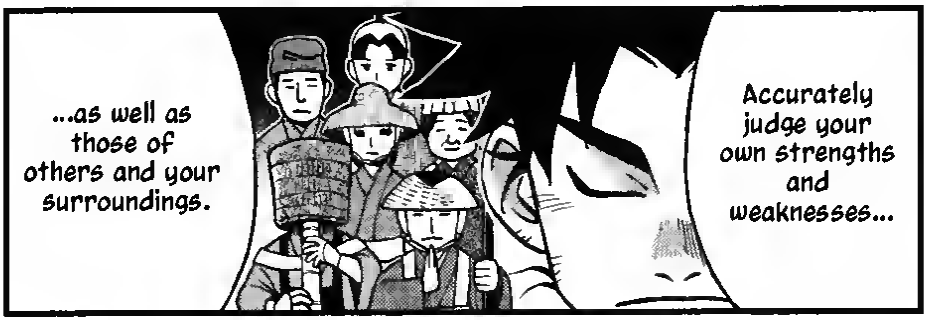

There is a method to chasing and attacking.
?
...so that he cannot recover.
GLARE
GLARE
Please let me go today...
Fix your eye on the enemy's collapse.
Once he collapses, you must chase and attack him...

Attack the enemy...
...then cast him away.
Once the enemy has collapsed...
...instantly strike him with a powerful blow.
Make sure to utterly crush the enemy's fighting spirit.


...the enemy may recover and not be so negligent afterwards.
ROAARRR
ゴゴゴゴ
Easy win
If you let this opportunity slip by...

Once you detect his collapse, the enemy cannot escape.
How strict
It is a battle, after all.
Don't be arrogant towards the enemy's disadvantage.

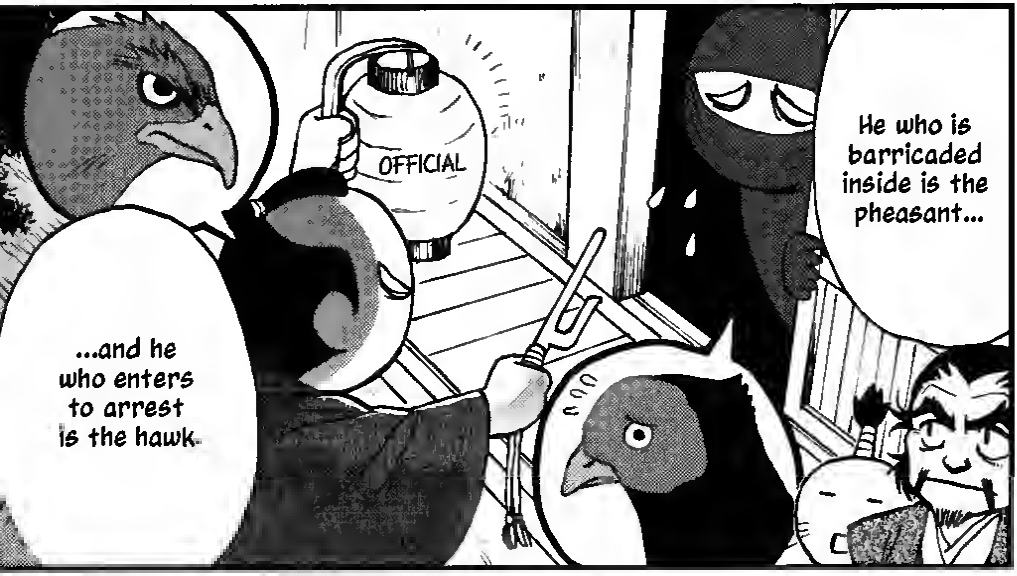
Indeed.
Everything has its flourishing and collapsing moments.
Knowing the Times is Crossing the Ford over obstacles.
To go on in the world and win, you must learn this.


Accurately judge your own strengths and weaknesses...
...as well as those of others and your surroundings.

Accumulate your knowledge in Crossing the Ford over difficult situations.
You must sufficiently study this.

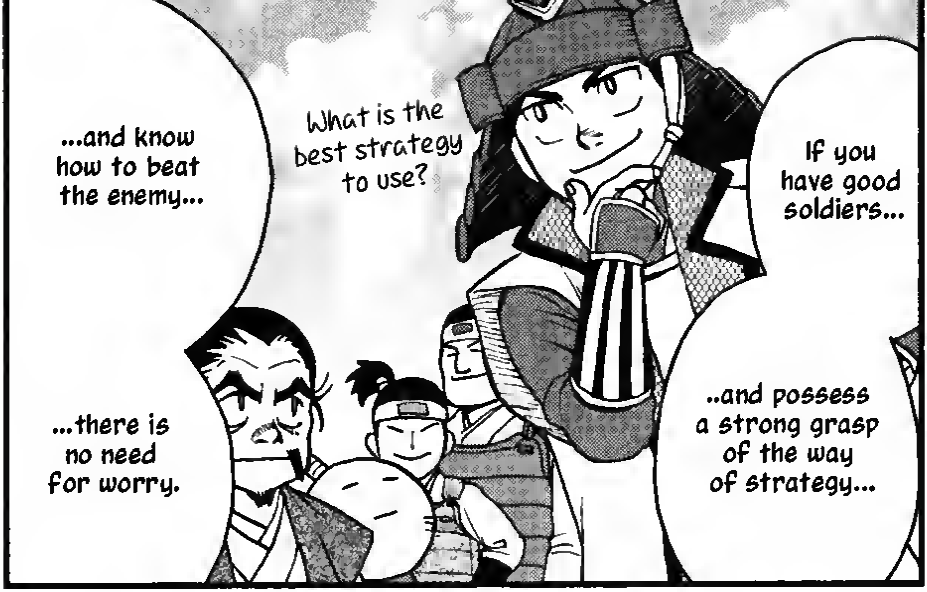
Moving on.
Next is the strategy of, Becoming the Enemy.
Becoming the Enemy
This strategy means to put yourself in the enemy's position.
Yes.
For example, in the world's eyes...
...when a robber fortifies himself in a house...
PACE
Come out!
He barricaded himself in the house!
Oh, no!
...he is usually thought to be a strong enemy.
Not being able to take a single step from the house...
...there is no way to escape.
...you will come to feel that the whole world is against you.
However!
If you think of Becoming the Enemy...

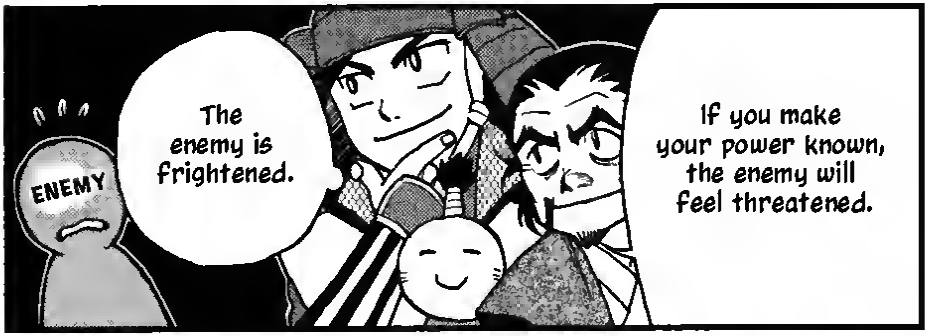
Becoming the Enemy in this manner...
...the enemy's weakness will become clear.
A prisoner.
This is the end.
Driven into a corner, full of despair, you eventually lose all will to fight.


OFFICIAL
...and he who enters to arrest is the hawk.
He who is barricaded inside is the pheasant...

Still...

...and so tend to become overly cautious.
I'll watch for now.
ENEMY
Even in battle...
...people tend to think of the enemy as strong...

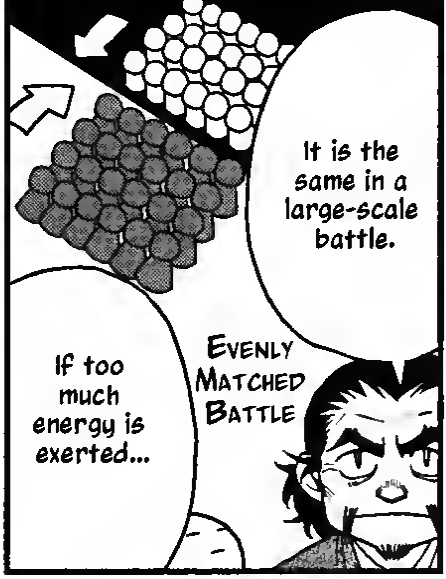

...and know how to beat the enemy...
What is the best strategy to use?
If you have good soldiers...
...there is no need for worry.
..and possess a strong grasp of the way of strategy...


ENEMY
The enemy is frightened.
If you make your power known, the enemy will feel threatened.

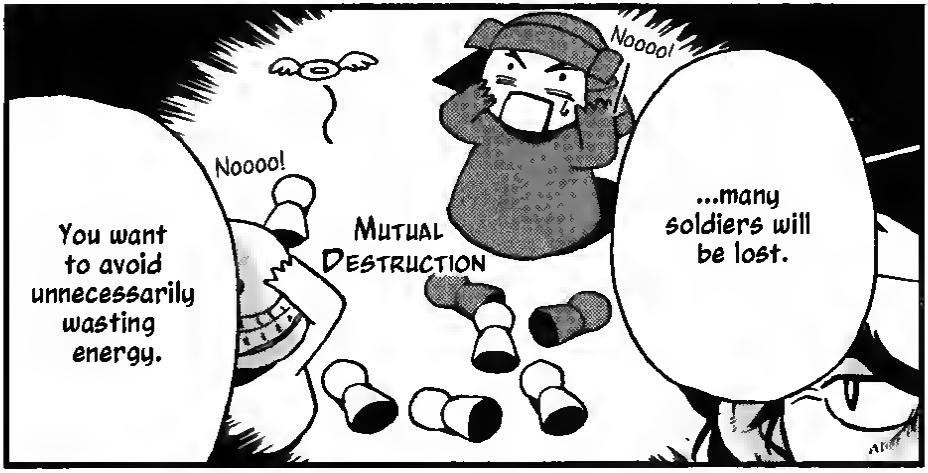
...and become locked in a stalemate.
I WILL WIN THIS BATTLE!
Use this strategy when both parties have the same objective...
ANNIHILATION SIEGE
YEEAAH
YEEAAH

RELEASING FOUR HANDS
On to the next strategy of...
Oh!...
...Releasing Four Hands.

However, it is important that you throw such plans away.
Huh?
In such a situation...
...it is likely that you would be desperately...
...searching for a way to break the stalemate.
FWIP
FWIP
YEEAAH
YEEAAH
We can't surround the enemy!
...and struggle for power against an evenly matched opponent...
EVENLY MATCHED BATTLE
SHOVE
SHOVE
In individual combat, when you find yourself in a Four Hands situation...
SHOVE
...before that happens...
...release your hold...
GRRRRR
...you will eventually become exhausted.
That is why...
HUFF


It is the same in a large-scale battle.
If too much energy is exerted...
EVENLY MATCHED BATTLE

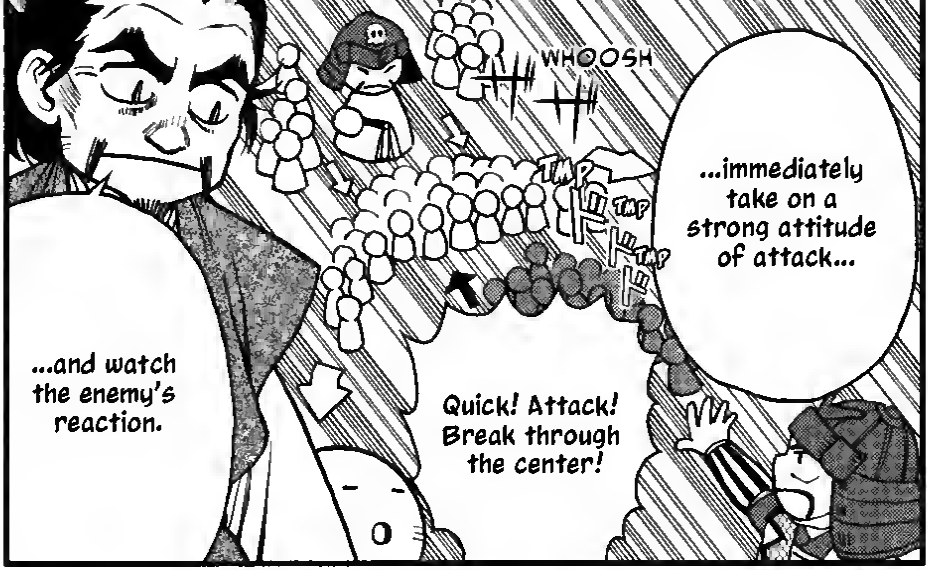
PUSH OUT
押し出し
Whoa!
...and take up a different stance.
You must do this in order to win.

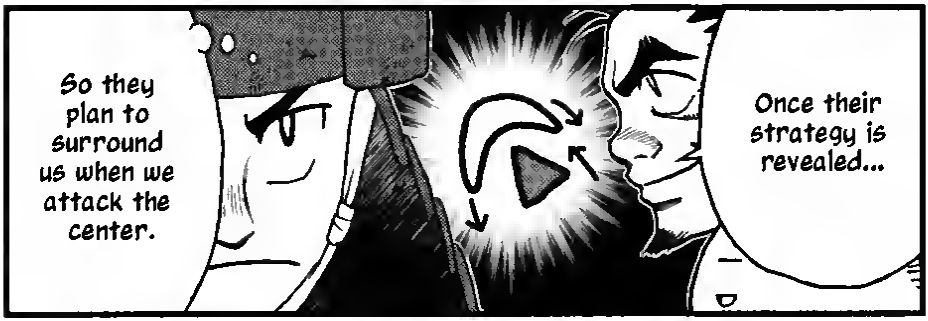

Noooo!
Noooo!
You want to avoid unnecessarily wasting energy.
MUTUAL DESTRUCTION
...many soldiers will be lost.

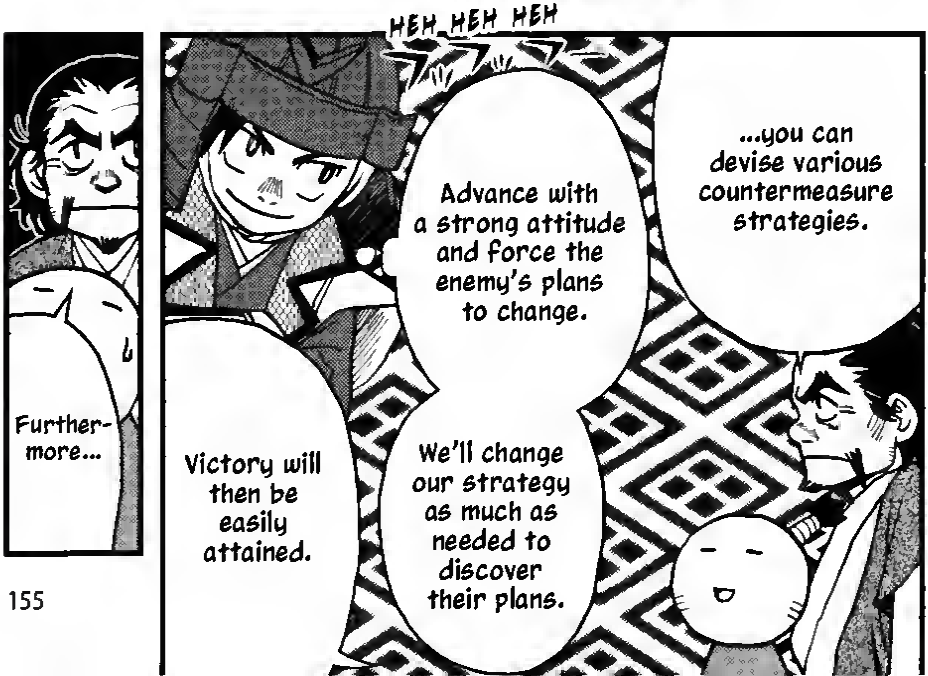
フーむ
HMMM
...and win with one your enemy does not expect.
To do that you must immediately change your strategy...

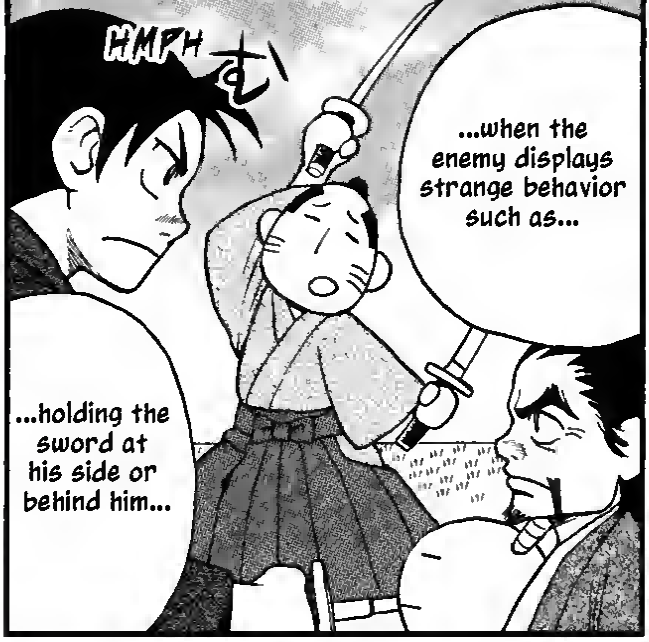
This battle is not progressing well. Hmm... But more supplies and troops will arrive...
This strategy applies when you feel things are not going according to plan.
RENEWING
That reminds me...
There is another strategy similar to Releasing Four Hands...
...Renewing.
...and throw away your current strategy to start afresh.
SPIRIT
RENEW
There's no other choice.
Retain your spirit of winning...
Every aspect depends on self-determination.
As in Crossing the Ford?
This is a difficult technique in battle.
No, because it is difficult, it is essential that you master renewing yourself.

.....
This strategy applies when you can't detect the enemy's spirit.
?
Moving the Shade
Continuing on to...
...Moving the Shade.
This is my first time experiencing this
?
...there are times when the enemy's spirit cannot be detected.
Indeed.
Whether it is by sight or perception...
When you cannot recognize the enemy's movements...
...and are unable to perceive how the enemy will attack...
A bow?
Let's use a large-scale battle as an example.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

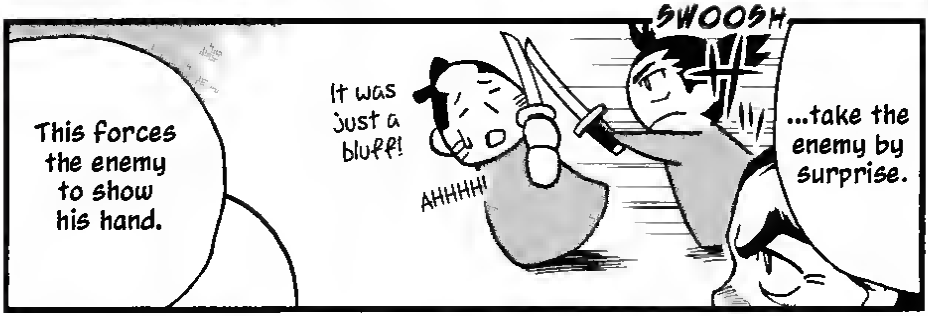

WHOOSH
...immediately take on a strong attitude of attack...
Quick! Attack! Break through the center!
...and watch the enemy's reaction.


Once their strategy is revealed...
So they plan to surround us when we attack the center.


HEH HEH HEH
...you can devise various countermeasure strategies.
Advance with a strong attitude and force the enemy's plans to change.
We'll change our strategy as much as needed to discover their plans.
Victory will then be easily attained.
Furthermore...

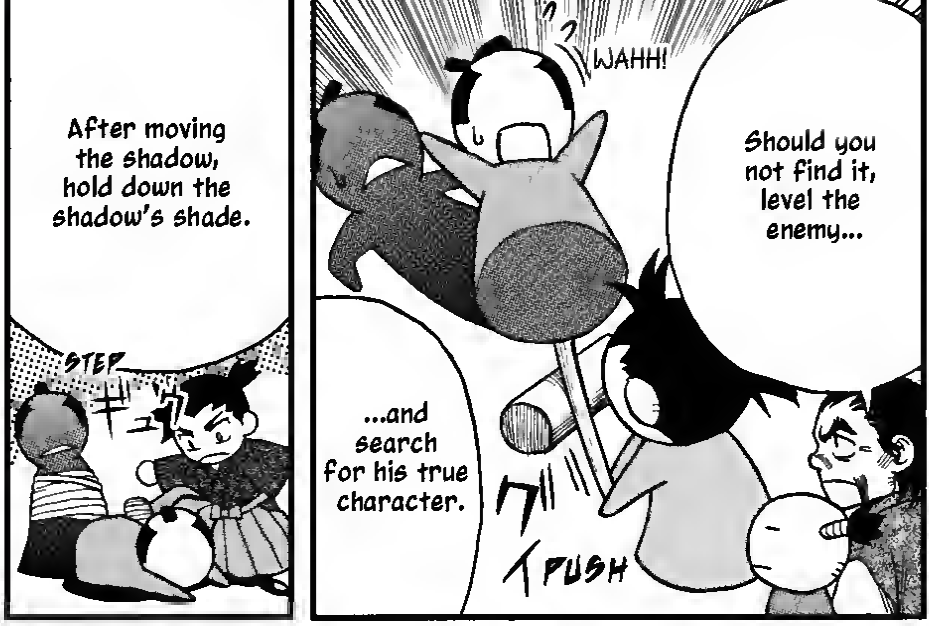

HMPH
...when the enemy displays strange behavior such as...
...holding the sword at his side or behind him...

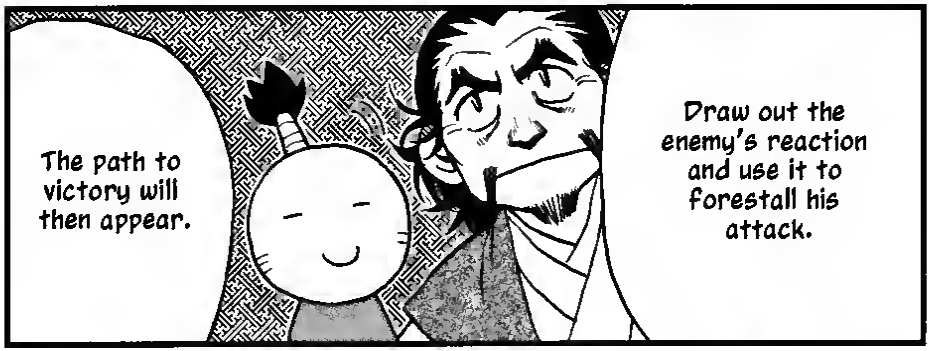
In individual combat...

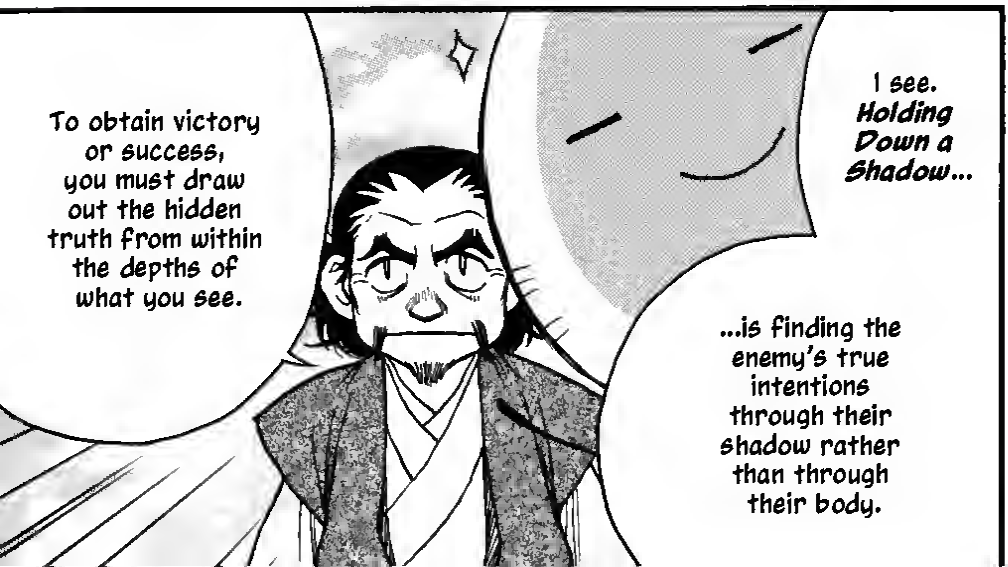

This forces the enemy to show his hand.
It was just a bluff!
AHHHH!
SWOOSH
...take the enemy by surprise.

SHADOW
ENEMY
Don't be taken in by the enemy's pretense.
Find the shadow behind him.

TMP·TMP·TMP
Wah!
Take measures according to the enemy's movements.
Charge vigilantly to gain the upper hand.
ZOOM!


After moving the shadow, hold down the shadow's shade.
STEP
WAHH!
Should you not find it, level the enemy...
...and search for his true character.
PUSH


The path to victory will then appear.
Draw out the enemy's reaction and use it to forestall his attack.


To obtain victory or success, you must draw out the hidden truth from within the depths of what you see.
I see. *Holding Down a Shadow*...
...is finding the enemy's true intentions through their shadow rather than through their body.

Now for the next techniques ...

...*Upsetting* and *Inducing Panic*.

Upsetting

Inducing Panic

These are strategies to manipulate the psychology of the enemy.

The aim of this strategy...

PANIC

BAM

Strike repeatedly!

BAM

...is to gain an advantageous fighting position by driving the enemy into a panic.

Long ago, employing strategy was said to be a ***deceptive method***.

Deceive the Enemy

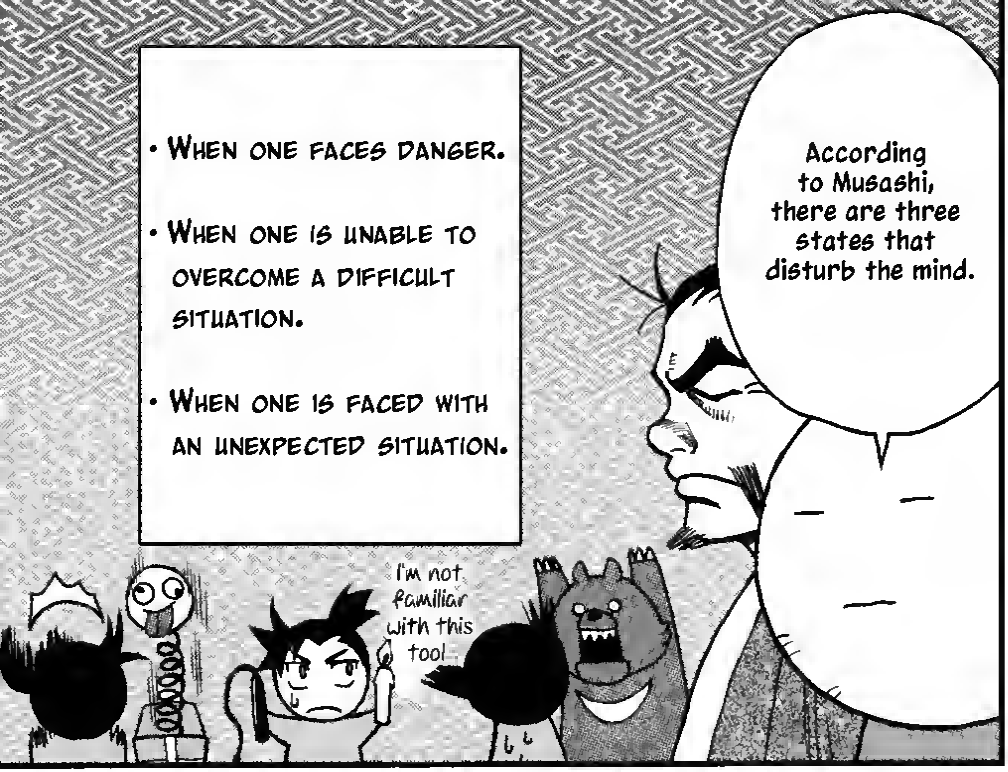
Surprise
Sudden Attack
Ambush

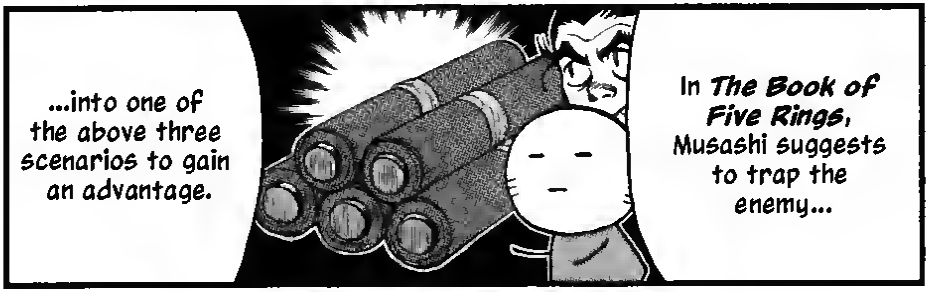
Causing the enemy to lose their composure in a fight is a conventional method of war.

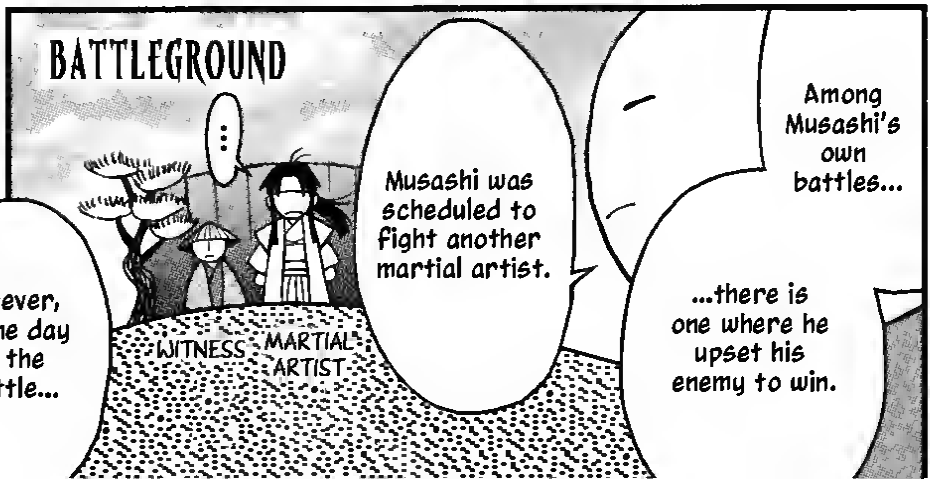
Musashi also states that upsetting the enemy is a shortcut to success.

Instinctively induce this early on.

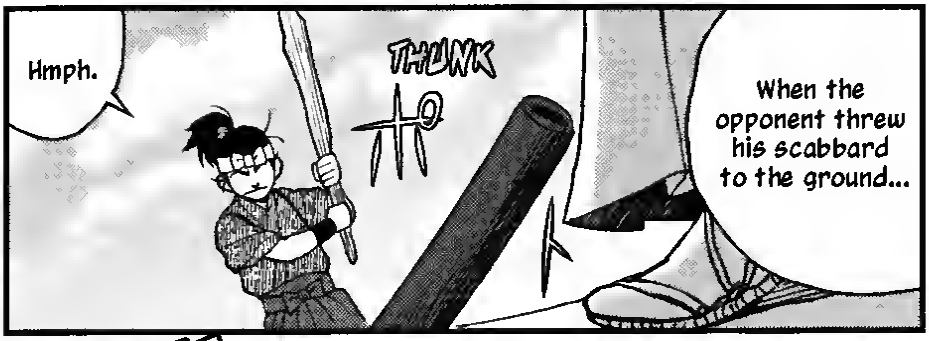
He's young

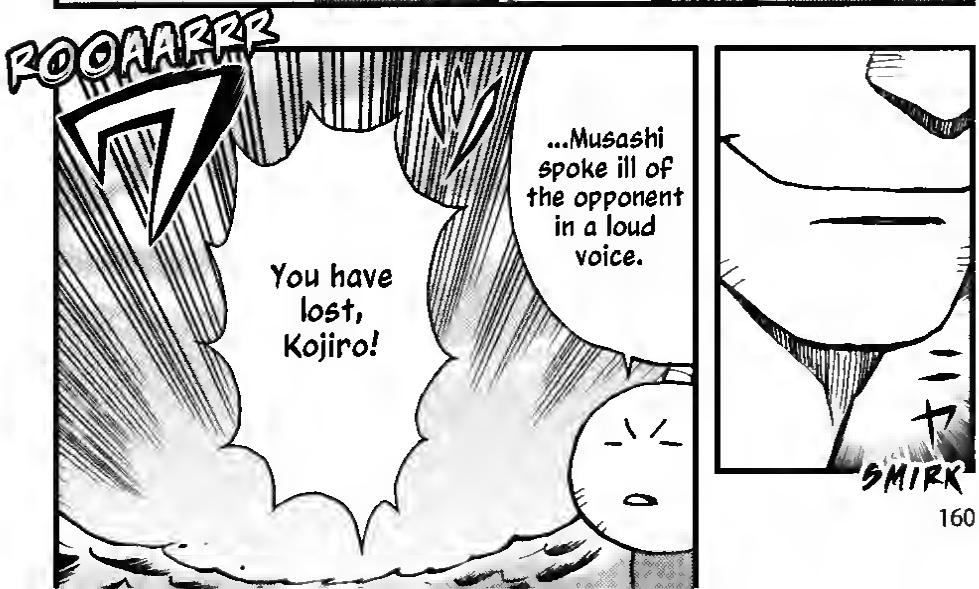

• When one faces danger.
• When one is unable to overcome a difficult situation.
• When one is faced with an unexpected situation.
According to Musashi, there are three states that disturb the mind.
I'm not familiar with this tool.


...into one of the above three scenarios to gain an advantage.
In *The Book of Five Rings*, Musashi suggests to trap the enemy...


BATTLEGROUND
...
WITNESS
MARTIAL ARTIST
However, on the day of the battle...
Musashi was scheduled to fight another martial artist.
Among Musashi's own battles...
...there is one where he upset his enemy to win.

This greatly angered his opponent.
PISSED OFF
ムカー イラー
A stick?!
His weapon was fashioned from a boat's oar.
...Musashi arrived far past the agreed upon time.


Hmph.
THUNK
When the opponent threw his scabbard to the ground...


ROOAARRR
You have lost, Kojiro!
...Musashi spoke ill of the opponent in a loud voice.
SMIRK

Are you prepared to not return alive?!
A person who plans to win does not discard his scabbard!
A victor sheathes his sword once he wins!
SNAP
SMACK
...Musashi averted his attack and won.
Once the opponent's spirit was disrupted...
If I defeat Musashi, I'll become famous!
In a battle of life and death, you must use every means at your disposal.
For example...
In a large-scale battle, there is no such thing as fair play.
It's all about survival.

AHHHH!
Threaten with your sword.
Threaten with your body.
Threaten with your voice.
Yikes!

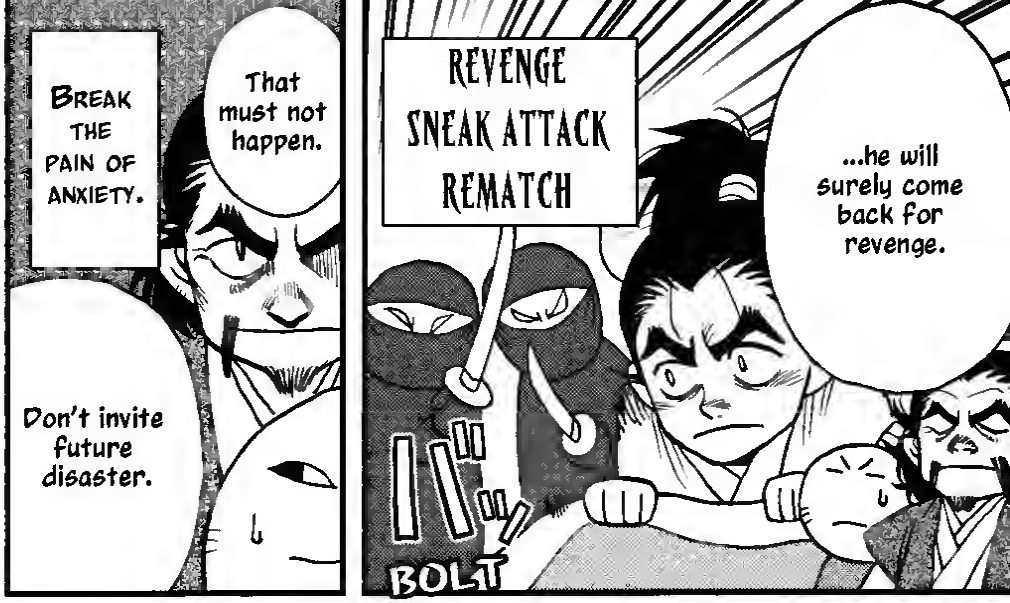
FEAR
Eek!
Planting fear into your enemy...
...is very effective.

TWACK
...there is no reason for you to lose.
And once the enemy falters...

SIGH
Use these strategies when the enemy becomes weak...
...or when the enemy is still inexperienced.

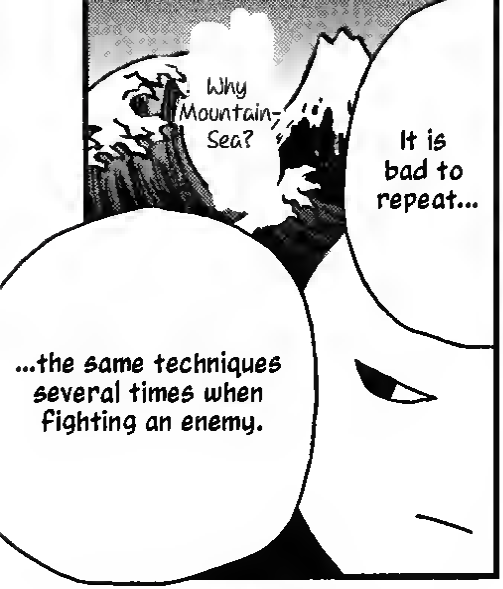
Crushing
Penetrating the Depths
And now, the next two strategies are...
...Crushing and Penetrating the Depths.

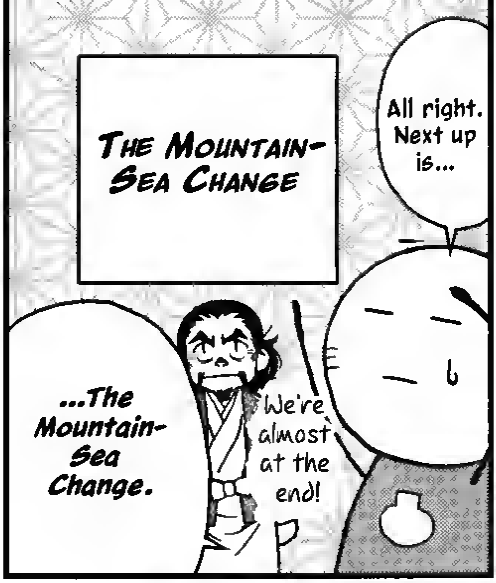
Yes.
Do not allow the enemy to recover in the slightest.
You see...
CRUSHING, BEAT THE ENEMY TO THE GROUND.
Thoroughly beat down the enemy.
Don't allow the enemy to hesitate or take a breath. Don't even acknowledge his presence.
Nooooo!
...the enemy may still not feel that he has lost.
WHY YOU!
HEH
HEH
HEH
Even if you have clearly won the battle...
...the enemy's spirit will continue to burn with hostility.
And in time...
Just you wait!
I won't take your life, so disappear!
If you underestimate the enemy and leave the battle unresolved...

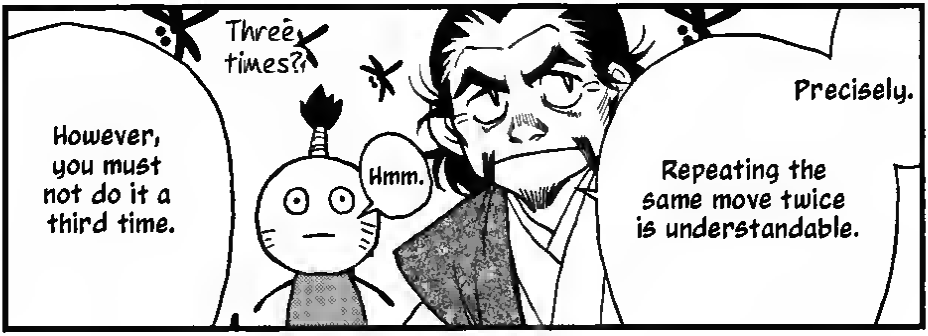

BREAK THE PAIN OF ANXIETY.
That must not happen.
Don't invite future disaster.
REVENGE
SNEAK ATTACK
REMATCH
...he will surely come back for revenge.
BOLT

TO PENETRATE THE DEPTHS
I'm sorry I won't ever do it again
I see.
Force the enemy to submit and put an end to the battle.

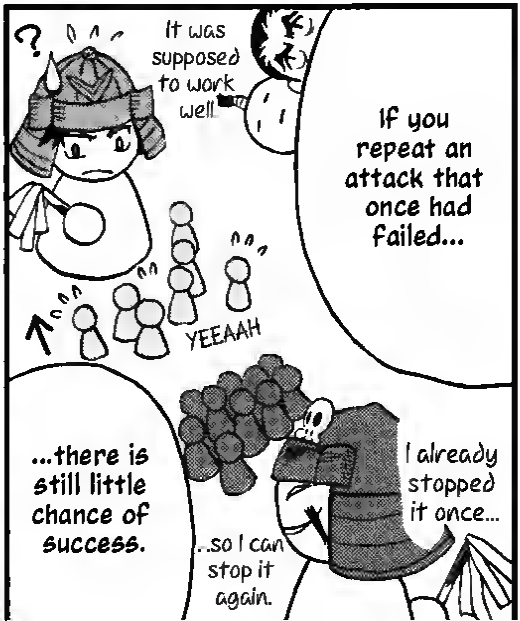
GLARE
And prevent unnecessary enemies from approaching.
Nip the enemy's fighting spirit and retaliation in the bud.
Make the enemy fear you before the start of the battle.

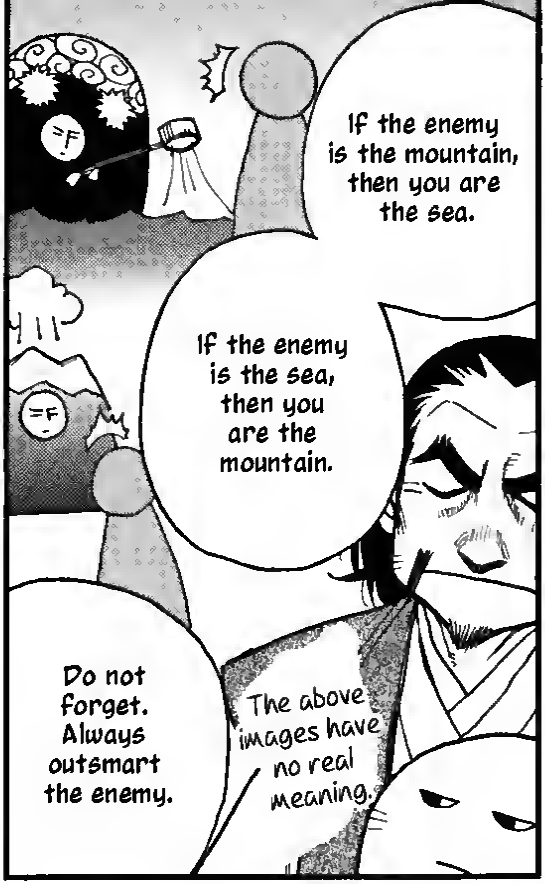

Why Mountain-Sea?
It is bad to repeat...
...the same techniques several times when fighting an enemy.


THE MOUNTAIN-SEA CHANGE
All right. Next up is...
...The Mountain-Sea Change.
We're almost at the end!

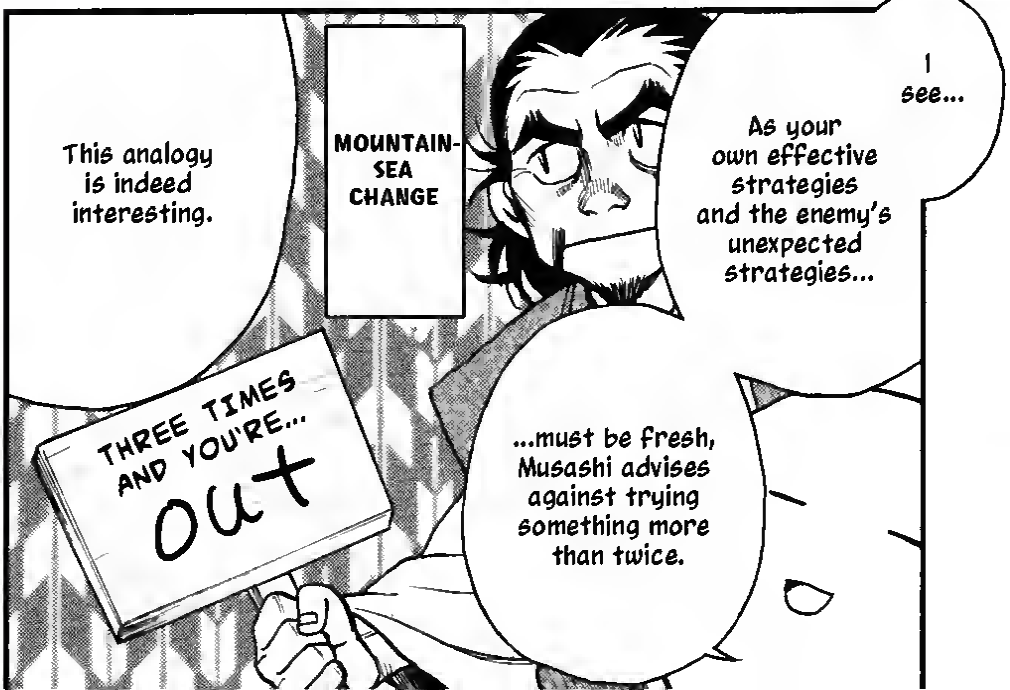

Three times?!
Hmm.
However, you must not do it a third time.
Precisely.
Repeating the same move twice is understandable.

Bwa ha ha! One-armed shoulder throw!
The same with repeating an effective technique.
Your move will be read and captured by the enemy.
We must block that technique


It was supposed to work well
If you repeat an attack that once had failed...
YEEAAH
...there is still little chance of success.
I already stopped it once...
..so I can stop it again.

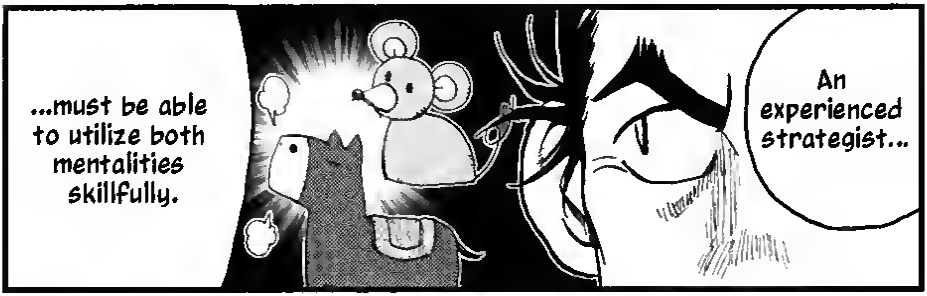

If the enemy is the mountain, then you are the sea.
If the enemy is the sea, then you are the mountain.
Do not forget. Always outsmart the enemy.
The above images have no real meaning.

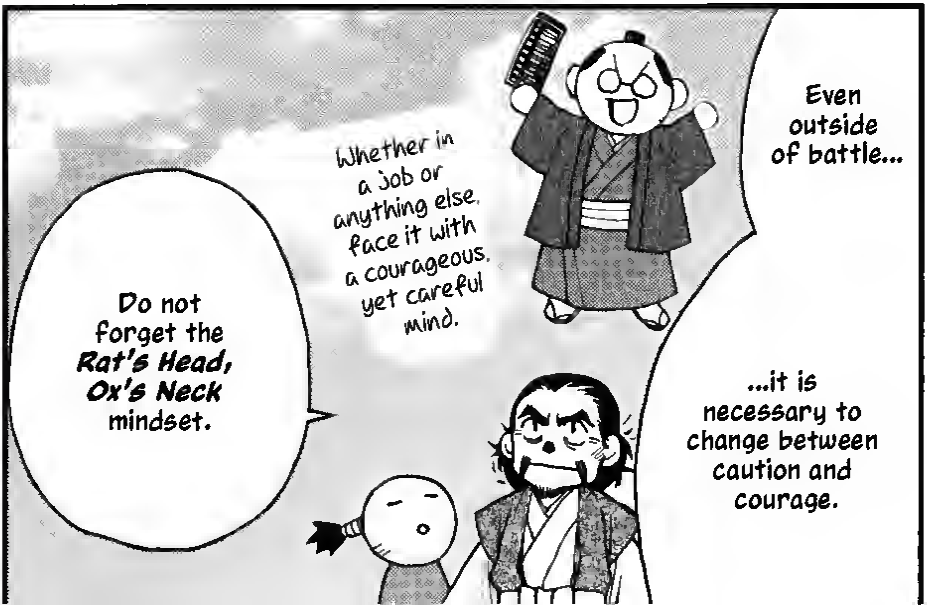
The way to defeat the enemy is to change according to their movements.
If you surprise the enemy with an attack that fails...
Imitating is bad.
...then you must change your attacking method.


I see...
As your own effective strategies and the enemy's unexpected strategies...
...must be fresh, Musashi advises against trying something more than twice.
MOUNTAIN-SEA CHANGE
THREE TIMES AND YOU'RE... OUT
This analogy is indeed interesting.

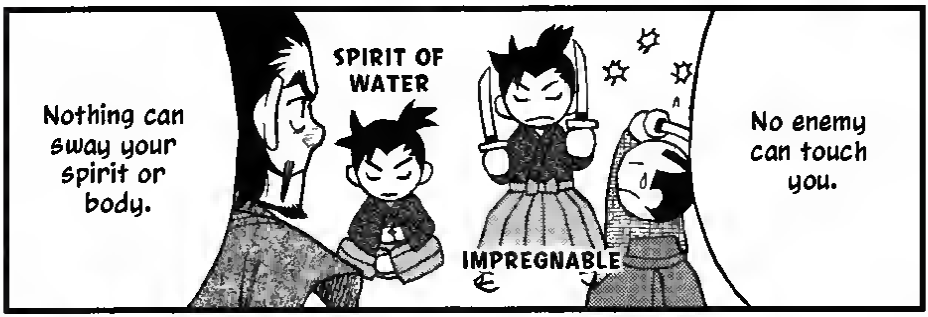
OX
RAT
For samurai...
...it means to be cautious like a rat...
...and bold like an ox.
Next.
Rat's Head, Ox's Neck
The psychological strategy, Rat's Head, Ox's Neck.
That is right.
This occurs when both parties become distracted...
Forgetting to see the big picture...
WAH!
causes the spirit to hesitate during the melee
...by small details in battle.
DASH
Gather your troops and attack swiftly!
Charge!
Strategize on how to change the war situation.
SLIP
Then, switch to an ox and take a strong stance.
WAH!
Take action after looking around carefully like a rat.

Being too brave leads to recklessness.
NOOO!
I'm thinking too much and can't do anything!
The important point is to interchange between the rat and ox mentalities.
Charge!
Death without surrender!
ウオー
YEAAH
Being too careful leads to cowardice.
ウオー
YEAAH


...must be able to utilize both mentalities skillfully.
An experienced strategist...


Whether in a job or anything else, face it with a courageous, yet careful mind.
Even outside of battle...
Do not forget the ***Rat's Head, Ox's Neck*** mindset.
...it is necessary to change between caution and courage.

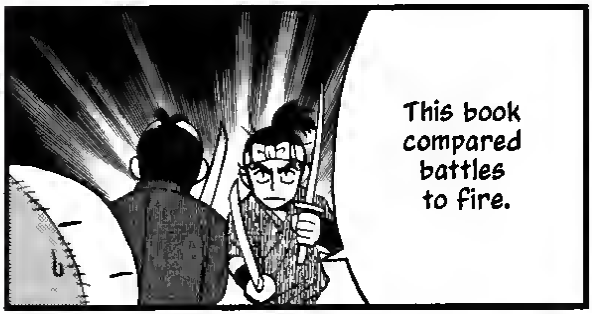
STOUT SPIRIT
When you have mastered the way of strategy...
...your body will become hard as a rock.
THE BODY OF A MASSIVE ROCK
Now, for the last strategy ...
GLINT
...The Body of a Massive Rock.


Nothing can sway your spirit or body.
SPIRIT OF WATER
IMPREGNABLE
No enemy can touch you.

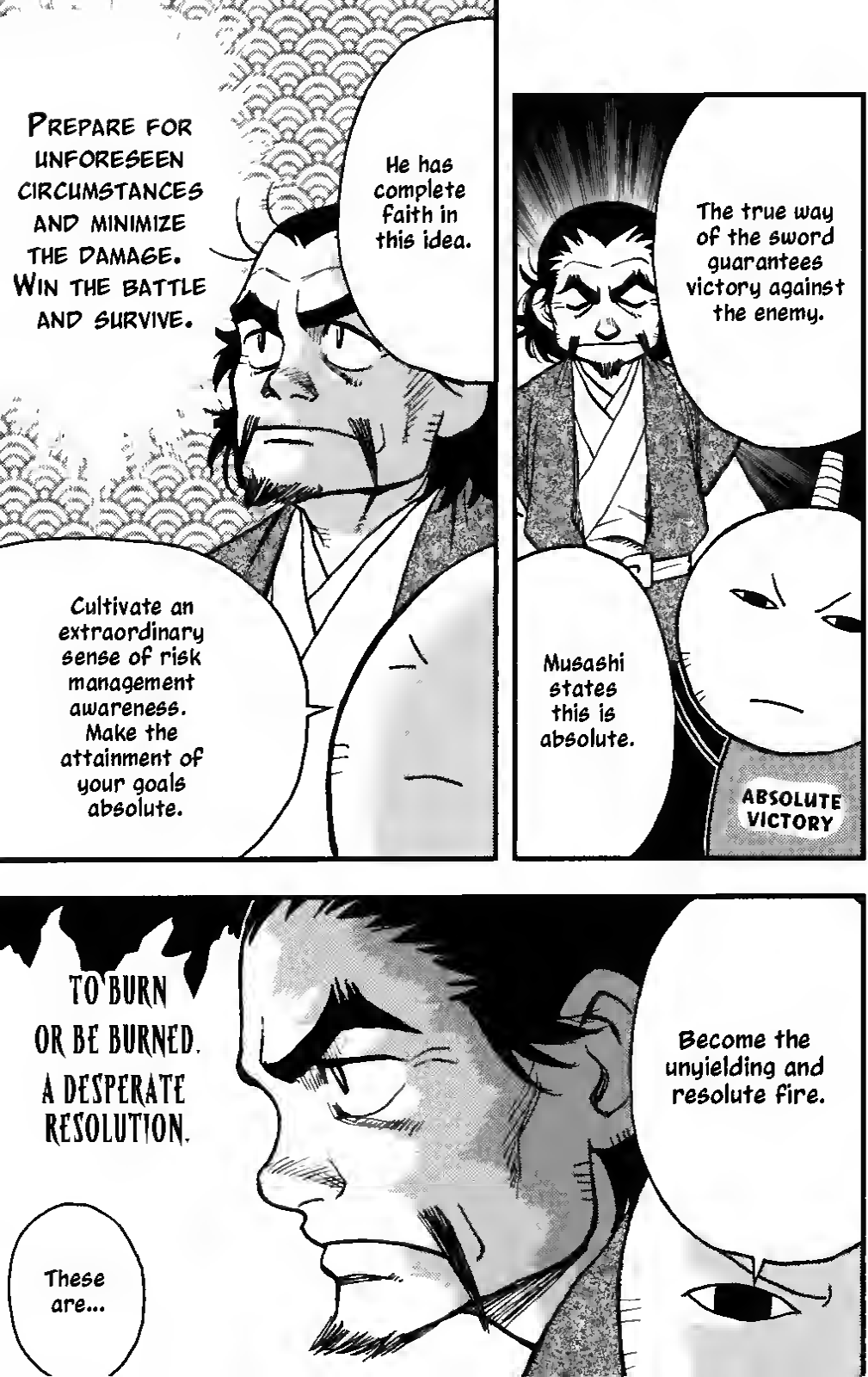
...anyone can become stout and quiet like a rock.
Know the spirit of water and the resolution of fire.
With diligent training and discipline...

The Book of Fire...
...on Musashi's attack strategies has come to an end.

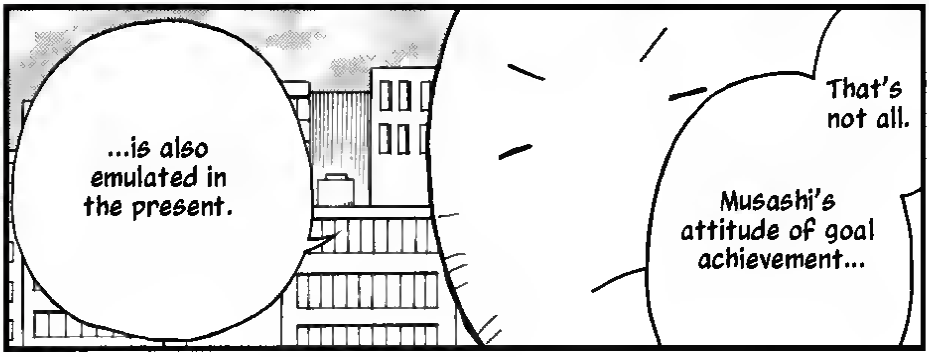
All right, then.
This is it.

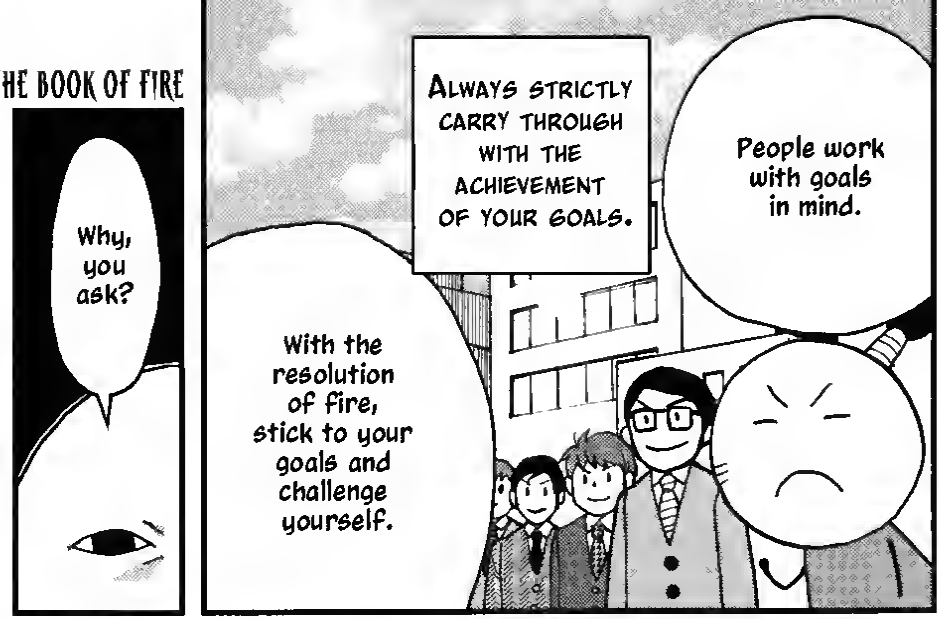

This book compared battles to fire.

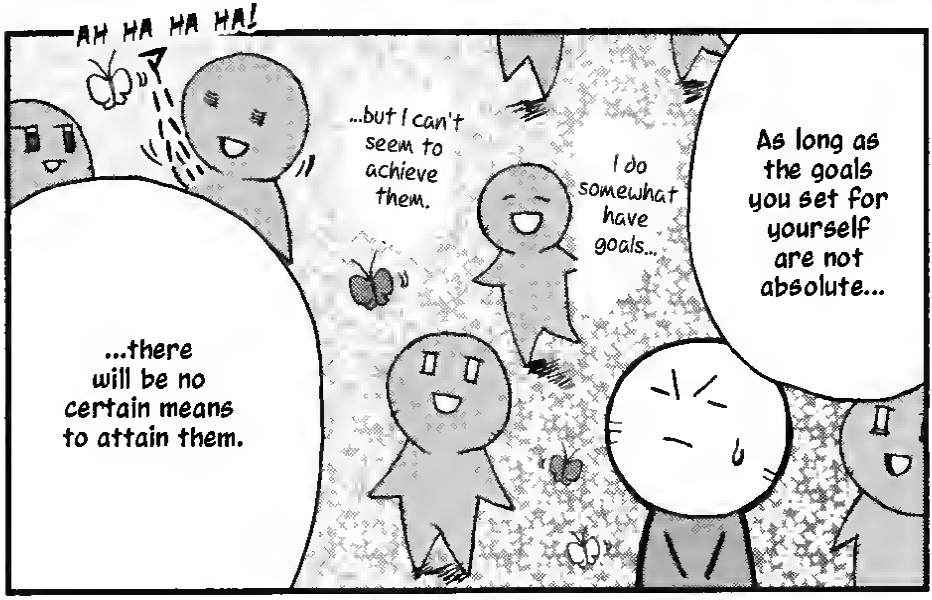
Don't be swallowed by, but swallow the fire of battle.
The strategies of war are bold and strong.
Always consider the war situation.

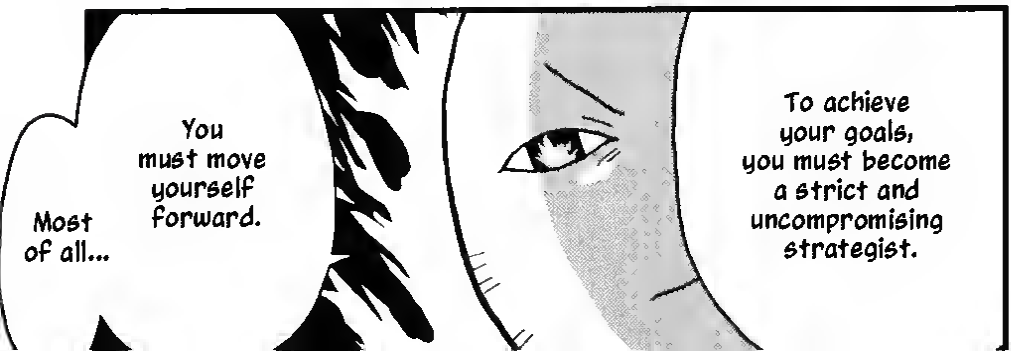

PREPARE FOR UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES AND MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE. WIN THE BATTLE AND SURVIVE.
He has complete faith in this idea.
Cultivate an extraordinary sense of risk management awareness. Make the attainment of your goals absolute.
The true way of the sword guarantees victory against the enemy.
Musashi states this is absolute.
ABSOLUTE VICTORY
TO BURN OR BE BURNED. A DESPERATE RESOLUTION.
Become the unyielding and resolute fire.
These are...

Clear strategies to achieve the target.
Risk Management Awareness
Resolution of Fire
...Musashi's logical and practical strategies.
Optimism is unforgivable. You must strictly predict future risks.
Impose your own strategies to ensure a crisis can be overcome.
Of course, these are to ensure success.

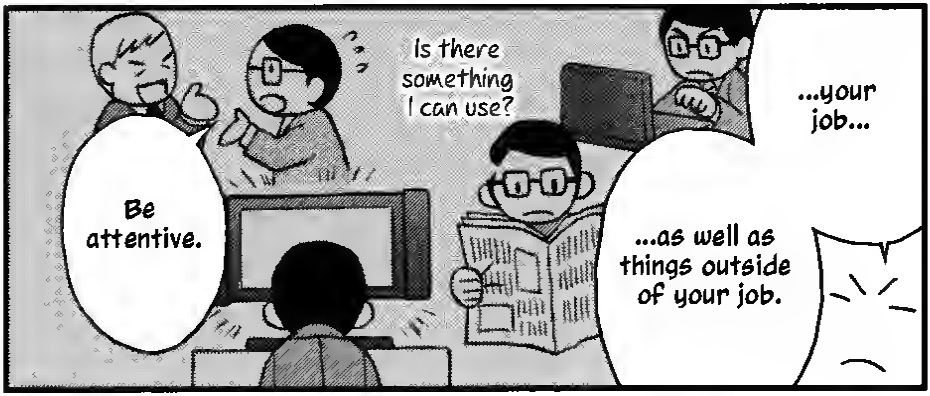

...is also emulated in the present.
That's not all.
Musashi's attitude of goal achievement...


Why, you ask?
With the resolution of fire, stick to your goals and challenge yourself.
Always strictly carry through with the achievement of your goals.
People work with goals in mind.

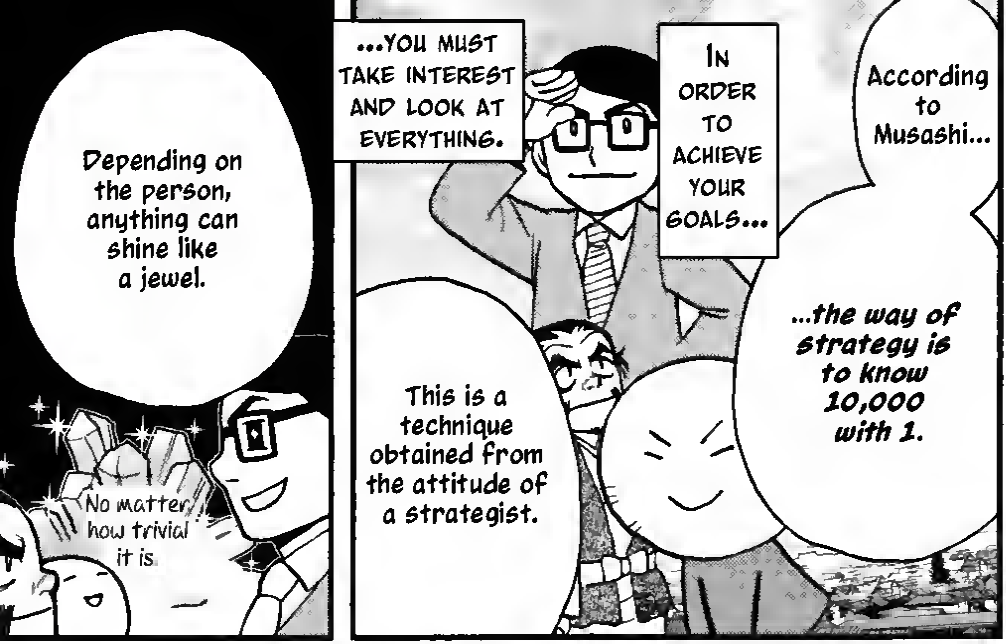

AH HA HA HA!
...there will be no certain means to attain them.
...but I can't seem to achieve them.
I do somewhat have goals...
As long as the goals you set for yourself are not absolute...

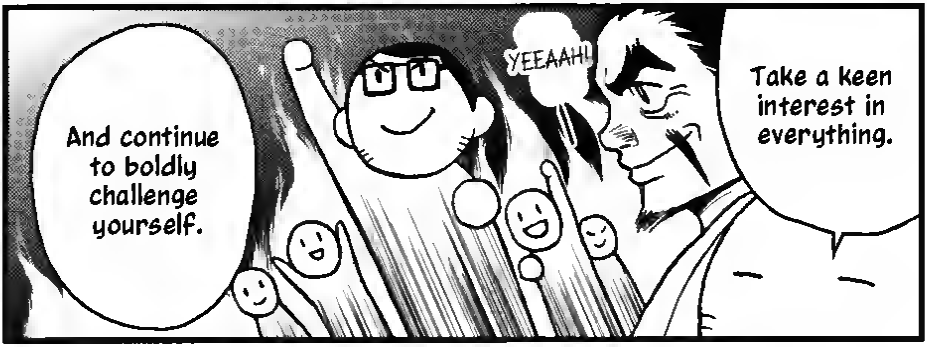

Most of all...
You must move yourself forward.
To achieve your goals, you must become a strict and uncompromising strategist.

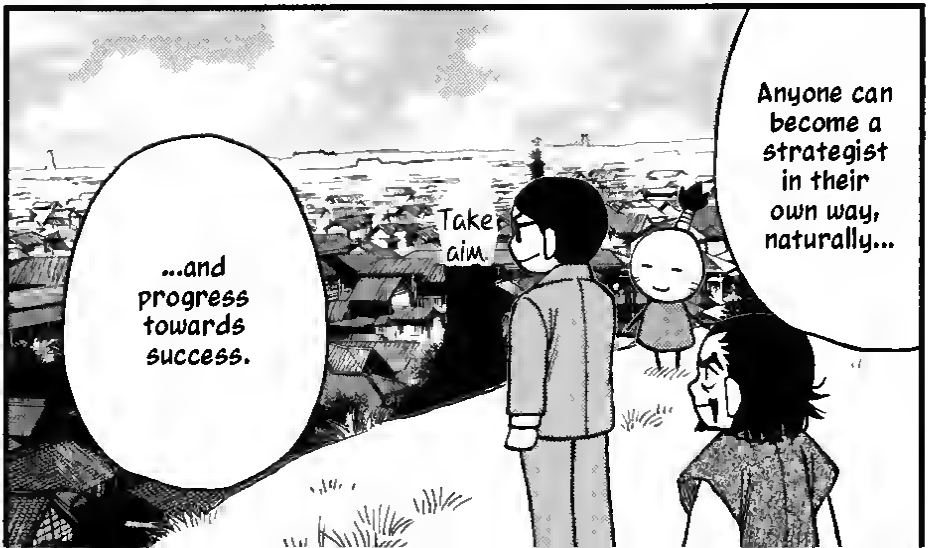
ROARR
...take on an attitude with the eyes of a strategist.
I can do it!
Carry a positive attitude towards yourself...


Is there something I can use?
...your job...
Be attentive.
...as well as things outside of your job.

OH!
To achieve your goals...
...utillize even the smallest things to their maximum use.

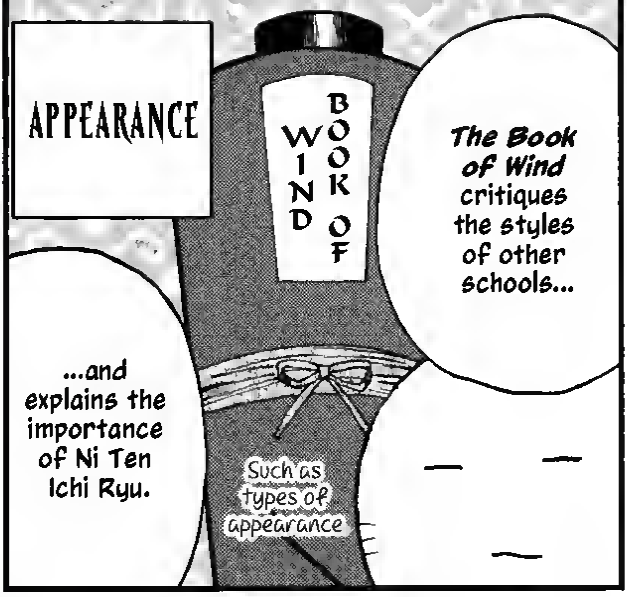

According to Musashi...
...the way of strategy is to know 10,000 with 1.
In order to achieve your goals...
...you must take interest and look at everything.
This is a technique obtained from the attitude of a strategist.
Depending on the person, anything can shine like a jewel.
No matter how trivial it is.


Take a keen interest in everything.
YEEAAH!
And continue to boldly challenge yourself.


Anyone can become a strategist in their own way, naturally...
Take aim.
...and progress towards success.

THE BOOK OF WIND
BOOK OF WIND
TAH-DAH
OK. Next up is...
...The Book of Wind.
In this book...
XX SCHOOL
XX SCHOOL OF ONE SWORD
XX WAY OF THE SWORD
Without knowledge of other schools...
...you cannot correctly understand Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's way of strategy.
XX SCHOOL
HMM
HMMM...
...Musashi writes on other schools of sword techniques.
Compared to other martial arts guides, this one has less volume.

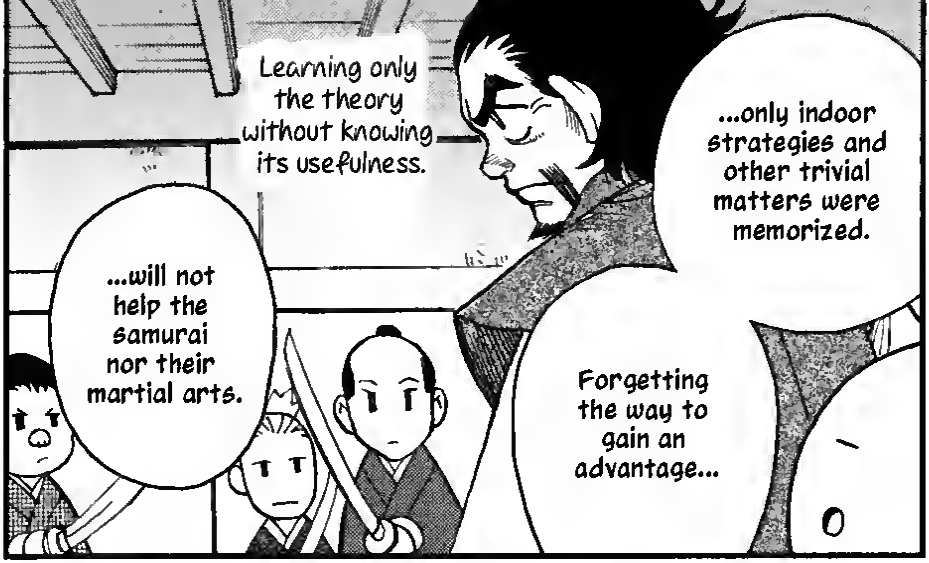
CHATTER
CHATTER
Musashi observed the way of strategy of other schools.

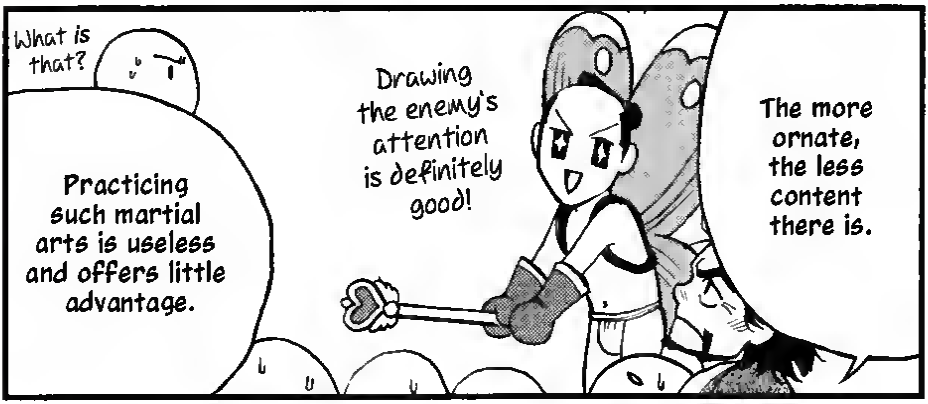

APPEARANCE
BOOK OF WIND
The Book of Wind critiques the styles of other schools...
...and explains the importance of Ni Ten Ichi Ryu.
Such as types of appearance

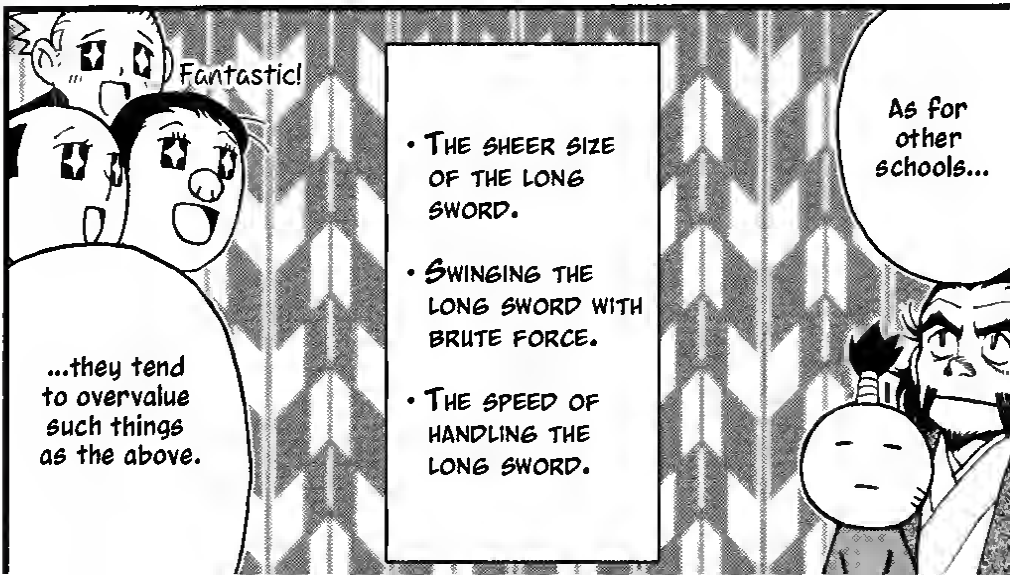
...and so limit their strategy around the sword.
Please try harder
Some are only concerned with practicing sword techniques...

SIGH
No matter which school...

SIGH
Musashi was amazed.
...and fail to grasp the true way to attaining victory.
Others strive only to improve conventional techniques...


Learning only the theory without knowing its usefulness.
...only indoor strategies and other trivial matters were memorized.
...will not help the samurai nor their martial arts.
Forgetting the way to gain an advantage...

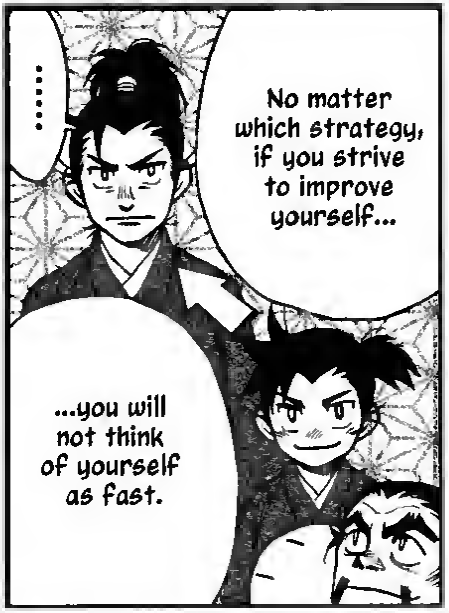

What is that?
Drawing the enemy's attention is definitely good!
The more ornate, the less content there is.
Practicing such martial arts is useless and offers little advantage.


Fantastic!
• THE SHEER SIZE OF THE LONG SWORD.
• SWINGING THE LONG SWORD WITH BRUTE FORCE.
• THE SPEED OF HANDLING THE LONG SWORD.
As for other schools...
...they tend to overvalue such things as the above.

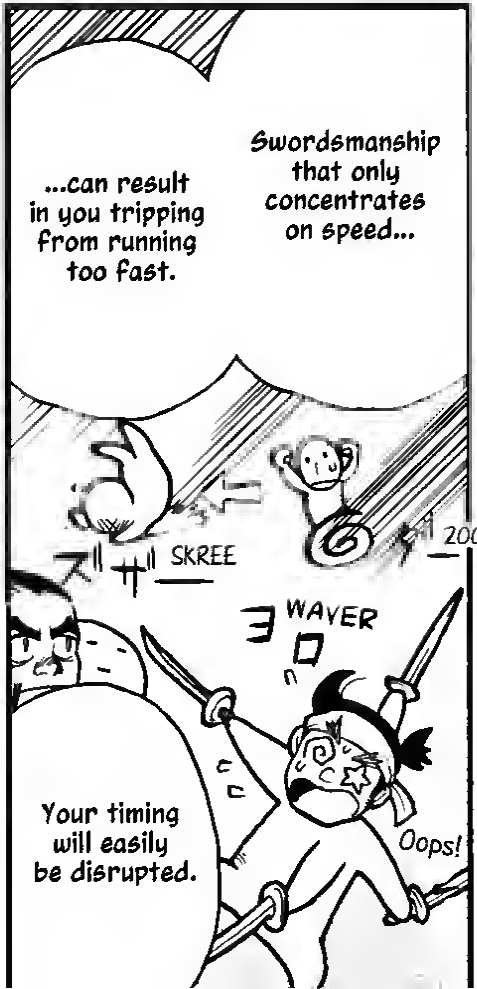
What do you think?
Some schools have a liking for big swords.
All of them are techniques for the weak.
If your sword is slightly longer than the other's...
...then you have that much more advantage.
Depending on the length of your sword to win is due to the weakness of your spirit.
The enemy will soon withdraw, right?
These are the thoughts of a novice.
If anything, my way of strategy discourages sticking to one thing.
It is also not good to prefer small swords for their lightness and easy handling.
I do not prefer big swords over small swords.
This does not mean that I dislike big swords either.
More-over....

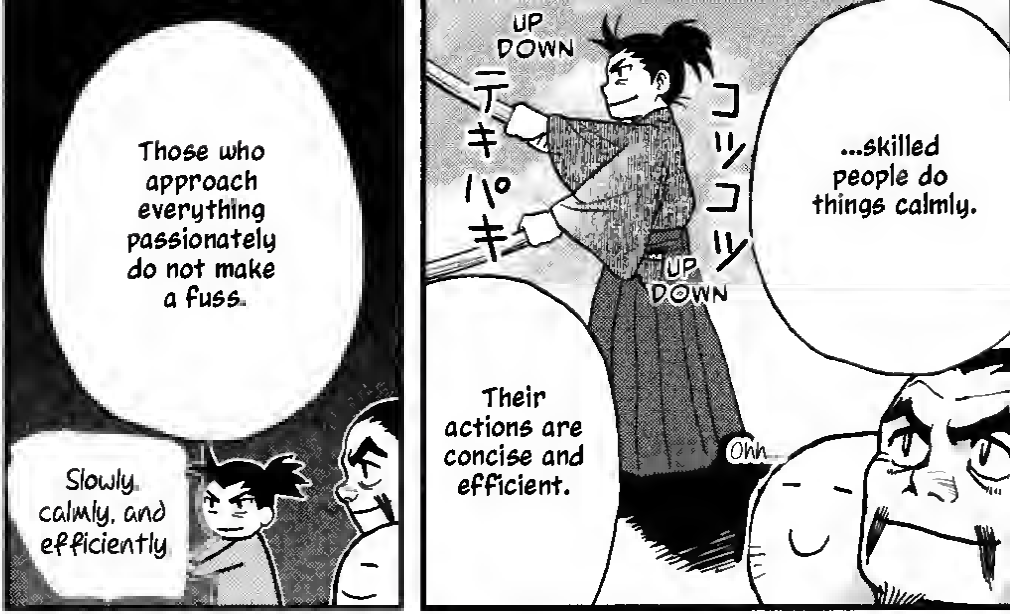
Sword Techniques Using Brute Strength
It is difficult to win with a crude long sword.
GWARRR
AHHHH!
Swinging a long sword with brute strength is crude.
...it will not smoothly cut through the enemy's body.
STUCK
Even if your sword strikes the enemy...
...your sword can also break.
When you strike the enemy's sword...
Like so.
SNAP
...your posture will only collapse.
WHOOSH
...if you strike and miss the target...
On the other hand...

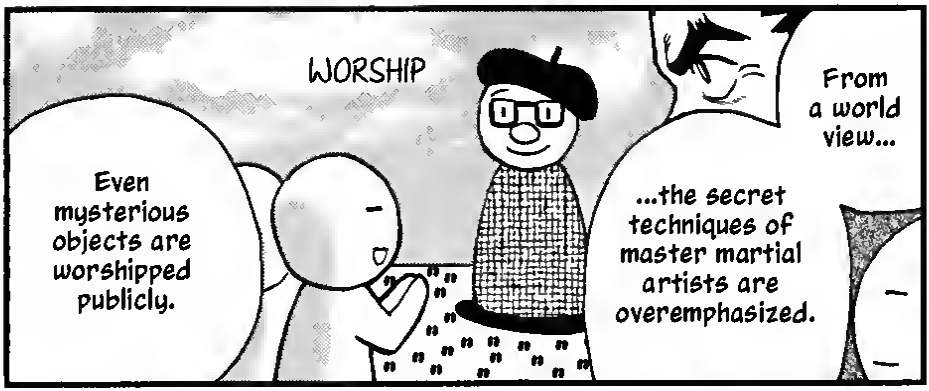
SLICE
That is why, you cannot win a battle without using proper reason.
Soon, the worst possible end will become apparent.


.....
No matter which strategy, if you strive to improve yourself...
...you will not think of yourself as fast.

In other words...


Swordsmanship that only concentrates on speed...
...can result in you tripping from running too fast.
SKREE
200M
WAVER
Oops!
Your timing will easily be disrupted.


Those who approach everything passionately do not make a fuss.
Slowly, calmly, and efficiently.
UP DOWN
テキパキ
コリコリ
UP DOWN
...skilled people do things calmly.
Their actions are concise and efficient.
Ohh


WORSHIP
Even mysterious objects are worshipped publicly.
From a world view...
...the secret techniques of master martial artists are overemphasized.

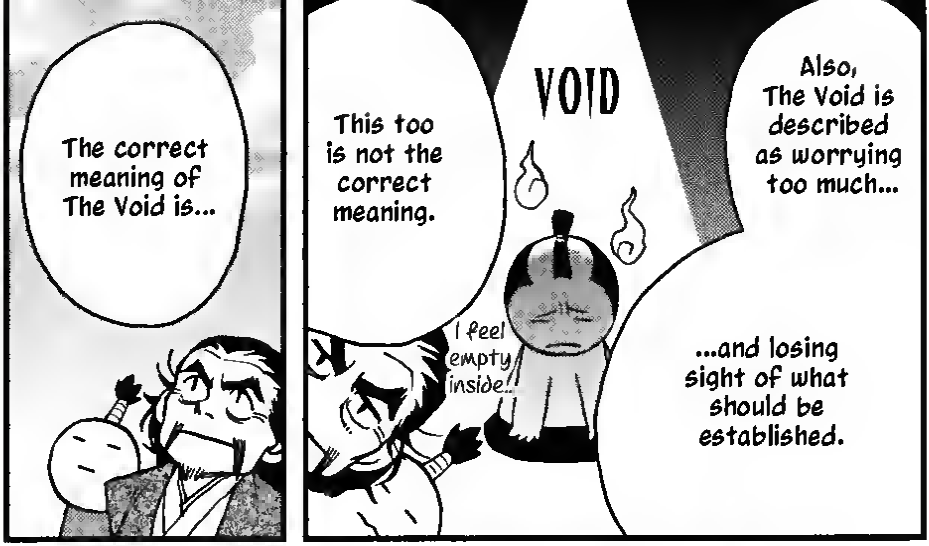
We must walk the path that stretches from beneath our feet to the far distance.
However, all things are attained by the accumulation of rationality.

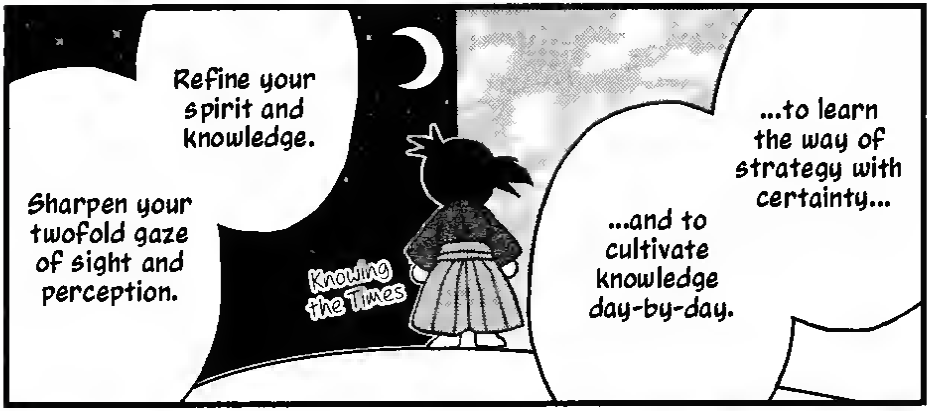
STABILITY
SELF-POSSESSION
Naturally attain the correct way of the strategist.
To be robust in body and spirit is the significance of my way of strategy.
GUIDANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR CAPABILITY.
My way of strategy ...
...teaches a way that accurately matches your abilities.
Upon learning the way of strategy, remove various weaknesses you may possess.
Prioritize practicality.
Remove weakness.
Stretch the mind and body as well as your skills and abilities.
In order to know the correctness of your current position...
...there is more written beyond The Book of Wind.
BOW
This marks the end of The Book of Wind
This is very important.
The virtue of my way of strategy can be acquired with the correct function of the spirit.

Finally, the last one.
BOOK OF VOID
FLAP
The Book of Void.
THE BOOK OF VOID

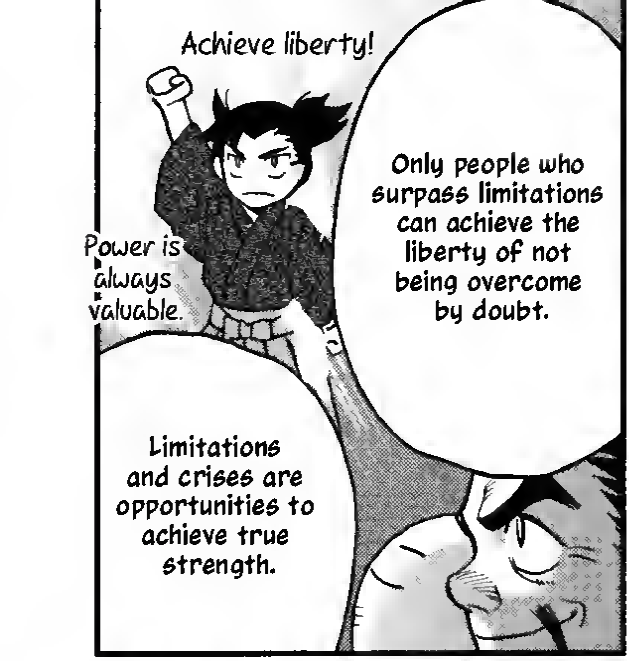
THE VOID
Musashi describes the spirit of strategy as...
...The Void.
BOOK OF VOID
Now...
...in this book is Musashi's profound view on Ni Ten Ichi Ryu's way of strategy.
Although the sentences are short, it is written with deep meaning.
Hmm ...
What does Musashi's Void mean, I wonder.
Of course ...
...commonly, The Void has been defined as nothingness.
The fixed shapes that are not there.
The Void is to see the things you cannot understand.
?

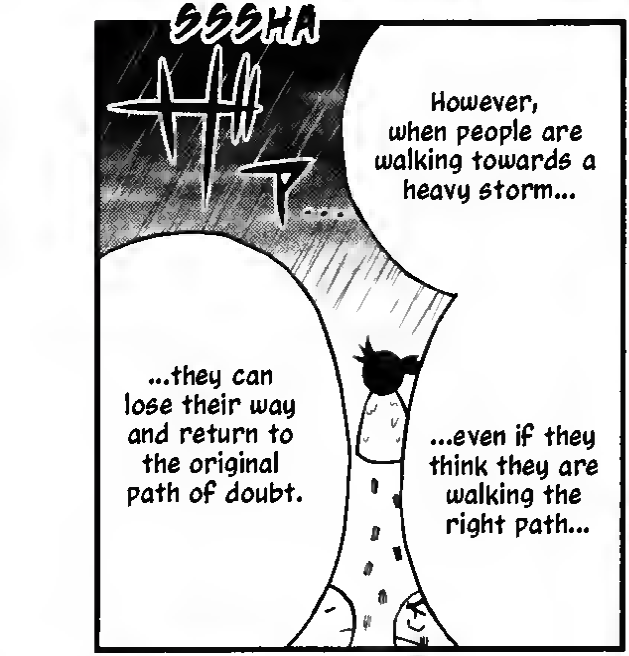
This is namely...
...The Void.
You separate yourself from different things.
You perceive there are objects...
SELF DENIAL
HUMAN RELATION SHIPS
DESIRE
For the first time...
LIBERATION!
...you can perceive there is nothing.
However, society has no general understanding of The Void.
Not thinking of anything is The Void.
They define The Void as not differentiating the truth of things.
This is not the correct meaning of The Void.
HA HA HA
It is nothing but the hesitation of the spirit.
空っぽ
EMPTY


The correct meaning of The Void is...
This too is not the correct meaning.
VOID
I feel empty inside!
Also, The Void is described as worrying too much...
...and losing sight of what should be established.

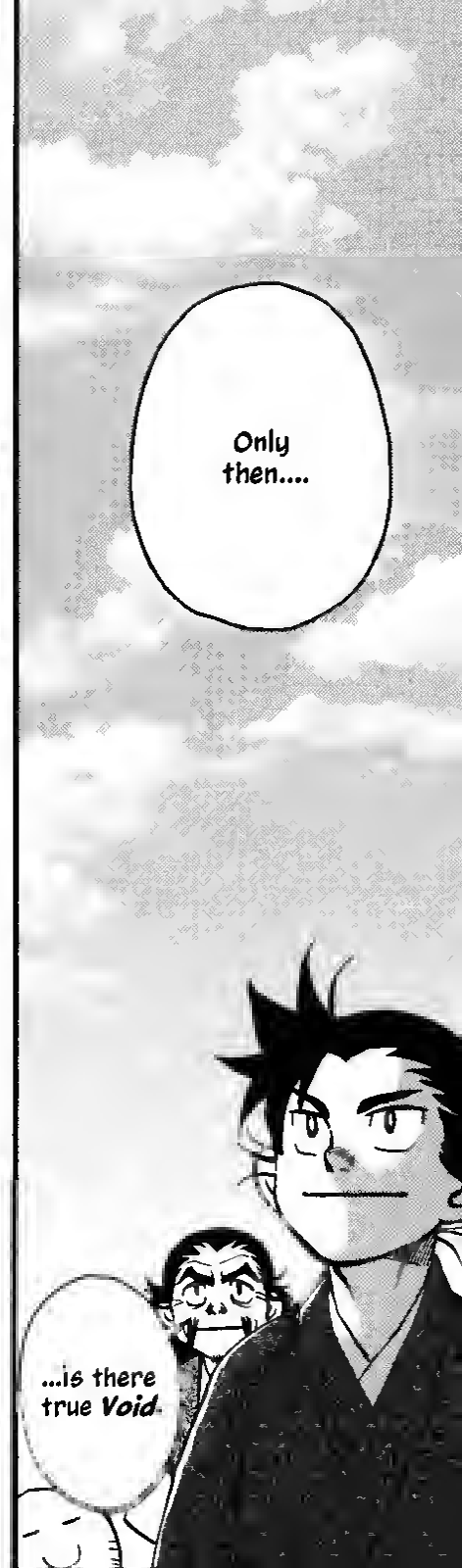

Refine your spirit and knowledge.
Sharpen your twofold gaze of sight and perception.
Knowing the Times
...and to cultivate knowledge day-by-day.
...to learn the way of strategy with certainty...

When your spirit is not clouded in the slightest...
When the clouds of doubt clear away...


Achieve liberty!
Power is always valuable.
Only people who surpass limitations can achieve the liberty of not being overcome by doubt.
Limitations and crises are opportunities to achieve true strength.


SSSHA
However, when people are walking towards a heavy storm...
...they can lose their way and return to the original path of doubt.
...even if they think they are walking the right path...

In order to arrive at The Void free of doubt...


Only then....
...is there true Void

The Void is only virtuous and has no evil.
Clearly grasp the state of the world...
...you must perceive the world with a wide view.
...and constantly train in the way of strategy.
Set a straight road as your guide and follow it.
...you will completely master the way of strategy.
As time goes on...
...and strongly feel the limitless expansion of unseizable infinity.
Only then, can you rid your spirit of all false convictions...

So in conclusion...
This is *The Book of Five Rings* as told by Musashi.
You cannot master the essence of the way of strategy just by reading this strategy book.
Be intimate.
Instinctively intimate.
In order to realize and comprehend truth, thoroughly challenge yourself.
Exactly.
THE BOOK OF FIVE RINGS
MANGA DE DOKUHA
END

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五輪書
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